



Oswestry

Pupils get a taste of living on wartime rations
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Fun for all the family at lights switch-on

A REVAMPED Christmas lights switch-on ceremony will be held in Oswestry tomorrow (Friday).

The big event, which heralds the start of the town's festive season, was held on the Bailey Head for the first time last year after moving from its traditional Festival Square venue – and it saw hundreds of people cram into the square to take part.

Town council bosses say this year there are more changes to improve the event including the installation of a stage.

The council's event manager David Clough said this year's switch-on is shaping up to be another great event.

He said: "We have made some changes so everyone can really enjoy the occasion."

"We will have a stage installed so everyone can see the performances and we have an improved PA system."

"We will have Mickey Mouse and his friends coming to switch the lights on so it should be a great occasion for all the family."

The event starts at 4pm and schools choirs from Belan House, Woodside, Our Lady and St Oswald's, the Marches and Gobowen will perform.

Win trolley dash prize

READERS can win a trolley dash thanks to Stans Superstore in St Martins.

One lucky winner will be grabbing up to £250 worth of shopping at the store simply by collecting tokens from inside *The Chronicle*.

The tokens, numbered 1-4, are on the Stans advert in the paper over four weeks.

Cut out the token on Page 9 and attach it to the coupon on Page 8. Return the coupon to Stans Trolley Dash Competition, Oswestry Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU by no later than noon on December 13. There will be a draw to find a winner.

PROTEST AS 999 WAITS INCREASE

AMBULANCES have failed to reach people quickly enough in Powys for the last two years National Health Service figures show.

The Wales Ambulance Services has failed to meet NHS waiting time targets every month since December 2011, with politicians from across parties criticising the service. At least 65 per cent of ambulances must get to the scene in eight minutes, NHS targets say. But the service has not reached the target in Powys for 22 months, and year on year waiting times have been increasing. In March this year as few as 54 per cent of ambulances met the target.

Glyn Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire called for cross border communications. He said: "The only way to sort out the ambulance service is to speak to the service over the border. It's often the case that when you're waiting for a Welsh ambulance it's an hour, when over the border there's an ambulance 10 minutes away."

"Everybody who's found themselves waiting should write to the Welsh Health Minister Mark Drakeford. And I'm more than happy for people to write to me – I'll make sure these complaints get to him."

Mid Wales AM Bill Powell, who has been campaigning to improve ambulance response times, said the records were "disappointing", and could be improved with more funding from the Welsh Government.

Improve

He said: "Over the last year the number of ambulances arriving within the target eight minutes to emergencies has declined to 57.7 per cent from 59.5 per cent last year. "Ambulance crews are doing a terrific job under trying circumstances."

Jane Dodds, Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Montgomeryshire, weighed in, she said: "Underfunding is made worse by unnecessary layers of bureaucracy."

Last Friday Mr Powell, Mrs Dodds, Powys County Councillor Joy Jones and Shropshire Councillor Heather Kidd met Wales Ambulance Service.

Mr Powell has also met with Welsh Government officers. "I will now be taking matters further with the Health Minister as a matter of urgency," he said.

Heather Ransom, Welsh Ambulance Service Interim Head of Service for Powys, said: "We accept that we are short of the eight-minute target for the most serious calls in Powys, and as a result have recently put two extra vehicles in place to cope with demand."

"Meanwhile we invite the public to support NHS Wales' Choose Well campaign, so that busy emergency services are available to those who need them most urgently."

"For non-emergencies, please consider calling NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 46 47 or visiting www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk for free, confidential health advice."

Festive run fundraiser



Sarah Johnson, Louise Corfield, Suzanne Williams, Lynsey Kilvert and Vanessa Thomas, launch the fun run at Lion Quays spa and resort. Picture Peter Shah.

A TRADITIONAL festive fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospice will take place at a new venue this year.

The hospice's annual Oswestry Festive Fun Run normally sees hundreds running through the streets of the town but this year the event will take place in the grounds of the Lion Quays Waterside Resort at Gledrid.

Hope House fundraisers say the theme of the event will stay the same – raising cash for a great cause and having lots of fun while dressed up in festive costumes. The

one-mile Festive Fun Run is at 11am on December 8.

Fundraising manager Vanessa Thomas said: "We are appealing for as many people as possible to put on their Christmas fancy dress and come and take part."

"It costs just £5 per adult to register and children can register for free."

People can sign up for the event online at www.hopehouse.org.uk or by calling the fundraising office for a registration form on (01691) 671671.

Delight at response to shoebox collection

CHILDREN in Oswestry have been collecting small toys, books and other gifts to fill dozens of shoeboxes in time for Christmas.

Seven schools signed up to help the Rotary Shoebox Appeal this year, and organisers were delighted with the response.

Pupils from The Meadows Primary School, Whittington CE Primary School, Woodside Primary School, Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Bellan House, Oswestry School and Adcote School in Little Ness took up the challenge to fill the boxes ready to be sent overseas.

Geoff Barren, from Borderland Rotary Club, said: "We have supported the scheme for many years and would like to thank all the children and parents for their generosity."

"The boxes are marked suitable for boys or girls, children or teenagers, or adult or household, and contain whatever can be crammed in to suit these categories. Toys, make-up, writing materials and books are favourites."

"For many children they may be the first toys they have ever been given."

"And the household boxes are very popular among the older people and often contain hats, scarves and gloves to help them through the winter."

Rally crowd stuck in jam

HUNDREDS of car rally enthusiasts were stranded in traffic trying to get to the Wales Rally GB stages at Chirk Castle on Saturday.

Thousands flocked to the castle as the rally came to town but many were left frustrated after getting caught up in traffic queues for the event.

Some drivers reported delays of up to two hours as the A5 and A483 became clogged up with traffic.

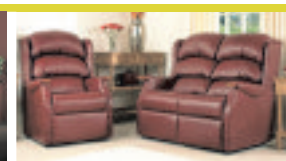
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School pupils get taste of life in World War II



Ethan Hughes, eight, busy peeling a potato.

PRIMARY school children had a taste of life during World War Two this week, complete with servings of corned beef hash.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 at Carreghofa Primary School, Llanymynech, arrived at school dressed as evacuees, land girls and soldiers for the themed day of activities.

During the day the youngsters cooked recipes from the 1940s including corned beef hash, jam tarts and meat paste sandwiches.

They also tried their hand at sewing with a "make do and mend" session, and then made their own medals while they found out more about what soldiers during the war had to do.

Party

The day was organised by the school's deputy headteacher Dawn Jones.

She said: "We had a lovely day. There were 60 children taking part from two classes.

"We watched an episode of Dad's Army and learned a lot about the Home Front through that.

"We used all the food for a VE day party in the after-

noon and they ate it all up. We thought they wouldn't touch it, but they gobbled it up."

The day was part of a term-long programme looking at the Second World War.

"We try to do a special day and a trip out each term," Mrs Jones said.

"Earlier in the term we went to the museum at Cosford and had lessons in a World War Two classroom there. We looked at all the planes and even got to sit in one of the bombers."

Mrs Jones said the term-long themes help the children to learn more about subjects that they may not otherwise find out about.

"It brings it all to life for the children and enriches their education," she said.

"It helps them learn about things that don't come up in normal lessons."



Pupils from left, Amelie Lingard, eight, as an evacuee, Nell Sidaway, 10, as a land girl and Huw Evans, 10, as a 1940s boy. Pictures: Ian Sheppard.



Learning to cook with rations, from left, pupils Lewis Williams, seven, Ethan Hughes, eight and Ella Hayward, 10, with Teaching Assistant Sue Smith, right.

Talented NT young farmer on TV twice

A YOUNG farmer from Dyffryn Ceiriog who is responsible for one of The National Trust's farms will feature on S4C's Ffermio programme next week.

Caryl Hughes of Dyffryn Ceiriog near Llangollen won a special scholarship earlier this year to run the National Trust farm, Llyndy Isaf, which is near Beddgelert on the foot of Snowdon Mountain.

The 23-year-old, who is a member of the young farmers' Tanat Valley club, is responsible for stock control, decision-making and business management at Llyndy Isaf.

On Monday at 8.25pm she will feature on the Welsh language programme Ffermio to talk about her role at the farm. Although the programme is in Welsh, English subtitles will be available.

Ffermio presenter Daloni Metcalfe will meet Caryl and hear how her experience has been since she took over the farm in September.

And Caryl has been enjoying extra publicity this week after appearing on BBC's Countryfile over the weekend.

In Countryfile she explained her background, growing up in a farming family, and how she hopes the year-long experience will help her decide what to do with her career.

"By the end of the year either I'll have loved it and want to stay in farming, or I won't and I'll never want to see another sheep again," she said.

Caryl put herself forward for the scholarship after the Trust raised £1 million to help purchase the farm, which features the famous Llyn Dinas Lake.

The scholarship provides valuable experience for a young farmer to run an upland farm and help develop the skills needed for a career in farming.

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NEWS

Craft fair moved at the last minute

A LAST-minute change of venue for a Christmas craft fair was hailed a success as visitors took advantage of being inside to enjoy browsing stalls.

The Whittington Castle craft fair, near Oswestry, was due to be held outside in the castle grounds on Sunday.

But castle manager Sue Ellis made the decision to move the event to the nearby Whittington Community Centre as the grounds were too wet to use.

She said despite the change of venue, the event was a success and looked to have raised more than last year's event.

"We think it worked at the community centre," she said.

"It was certainly a lot nicer and warmer for the visitors, and they stayed longer and bought more refreshments than if it had been outside in the castle.

"The stallholders were very appreciative of being in the warm as well."

More than 20 stalls were set up in the community centre during the day selling crafts, refreshments, and running games and other activities.

Raiders steal 4 metal grids

METAL grids worth £200 have been stolen from a sewage treatment works near Oswestry.

Police spokesman Richard Ewels said the theft was at Whittington Business Park, Park Green, between 5.40pm on Friday and 9am on Saturday. "Intruders stole four 2ft-square metal grilles, the property of Severn Trent Water," he said.

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111.



Spectators arriving at the Wales Rally GB at Chirk Castle. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

Thousands flock to rally

THOUSANDS of car rallying fans flocked to Chirk Castle as the Wales Rally GB arrived on Saturday but many were left frustrated after getting caught up in traffic queues for the event.

The picturesque setting provided a stunning backdrop for two special stages of the rally, the final round of the FIA World Rally Championship.

The popularity of the new event at the castle, including a family friendly Rallyfest which gave novices a first taste of the sport, surpassed all expectations and organisers had to reluctantly turn some fans away when the venue reached its capacity on Saturday and car parks became full before rallying got under way.

Some drivers reported delays of up to two hours as the A5 and A483 became clogged up with traffic.

But the diehard fans revelled in the atmosphere of watching the world's top drivers blasting around private roads within the grounds of the medieval castle.

Fans came from around Britain to enjoy the motoring and entertain-

ment extravaganza. Rally bosses said although they were thrilled by the popularity of the Chirk event, they admitted visitor numbers were higher than expected, leading to difficulties.

Andrew Coe, chief executive for event organiser International Motor Sports, said: "We're thrilled with the response and interest in this year's new look Wales Rally GB."

Apologise

"Moving the event to north Wales has proved a huge success and we're seeing unprecedented spectator numbers lining the forests and roads of every stage.

"Unfortunately this led to a number of spectators not being able to gain entry to stages at Chirk Castle.

"We're aware that many of these were existing ticket holders and for that we apologise.

"The venue's car parks simply reached capacity and with the nature of a rally taking place in largely remote areas there was simply no alternative."

Tragedy as schoolboy, 16, is found dead at his home



David Pugh

A TEENAGER has been found dead at his home near Montgomery leaving a community and his classmates in shock.

Police are investigating after the body of the 16-year-old, named locally as David Pugh, was discovered in the early hours of Monday morning. Officers have said the death is not being treated as suspicious.

The teenager was a pupil at Welshpool High School, where he was in Year 11. Fellow students were informed of his death in a series of special assemblies on Monday.

The school says that support has been offered to them, with counselling available. A school statement said: "It was with deep sadness and shock that the school learned of the tragic death of a Year 11 pupil.

"Pupils at the school were told of the death at a series of special assemblies on Monday. Our thoughts are with the family

by Graham Breeze

and friends of the pupil at this very difficult time and we would ask that people respect their privacy."

Sergeant Jon Rees from Dyfed-Powys Police said: "We are investigating the sudden death of a 16-year-old boy from the Welshpool area.

"He was found at his home address shortly after midnight on Monday."

Smiling

Tributes have poured in with Matthew Denton, who taught David at Berriew School for two years, describing him as "an extremely happy child who was always smiling and playing with his friends".

"He was a pleasure to teach and had a great sense of humour and character," he said.

"Everyone at Berriew School was devastated when we heard the terrible news of his death. Our feelings go out to his family and friends.

"What is for certain is he will always be

fondly remembered by those who knew him at Berriew School. David, you'll always be in our thoughts."

The 16-year-old had been working part time for the past year at Jacks Tyres in Welshpool, where Jack Richards, director of the business, said he was an enthusiastic worker who he would have been happy to employ full time.

He said: "He's been with us quite a long time, probably about 12 months. He came from school and was here two days a week. He would come in at weekends as well when he could.

"He was a lovely lad. He was interested in cars. His brother works here with me full time and they all looked out for each other.

"It's a shame really because he was a top lad. He absolutely enjoyed the work here. If he had the chance he would have been here full time.

"I think it was understood, although we never said it, that he was going to work for me full time eventually. He'll be sadly missed. Everybody's just totally devastated."

NEWS

in brief

Police to target speeding drivers

POLICE are to target two roads in Oswestry to stop speeding after problems were highlighted by councillors.

Inspector Rik Klair, writing to Oswestry Town Council, has said that there does seem to be speeding on Cabin Lane and Harlech Road in the east of the town.

However in Oak Drive, another area where problems were reported, Inspector Klair said the specific problem was identified and that it was simply perceived speed.

The town council has been asked to bring forward traffic worries to a new scheme introduced by Shropshire Council which will identify problems and look for solutions with the police.

Parking around Holy Trinity and the Meadows primary schools were also raised by the councillors.

Inspector Klair said officers would monitor the situation but said council enforcement wardens should be doing some work in combating bad parking.

Councillor will be at the library

OSWESTRY Town councillor Paul Milner will hold a surgery for the residents of Victoria Ward at the town library on Saturday from 11am-12noon.

"It's an open surgery and if I can be of assistance to anyone please come along," he said.

Disaster fund is boosted by £314

CHURCHES Together in Oswestry raised £314 for the Philippines Disaster Fund through a street collection in the town this week.

Richard Beaman, who organised the collection, thanked everyone who donated to the collection.

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Gregynog



Buster Read, Lily Abram, Connie Garvey, Martha Bennett, Archie Barr joined the country in helping raise money for Children in Need at the weekend.

Pupils aid appeal

OSWESTRY School's Prep Department joined the country in helping raise money for Children in Need at the weekend.

Pupils in Years 4 to 6 were asked to come up with ideas for running stalls and embraced the idea as budding entrepreneurs.

They had some excellent ideas including, score-a-goal, guess Pudsey's middle name, cup-cake decorating, lucky dips, tiddlywink targets and picking sweets out of a bowl with chopsticks.

In addition to fundraising activities, children were asked for a donation to wear something spotty.

Mr Michael Birchwood, Head of KS2 said: "We were very proud of the positive attitude and ingenuity that the pupils showed and the encouragement given to younger years to get as involved as much as possible in fundraising for Children in Need."

Council services face scrutiny to plug £20m funding gap

EVERY council service will be scrutinised as Powys County Council looks to plug a £20 million funding black hole.

by Graham Breeze

Councillor leader David Jones said every service will be looked at for savings, and said the situation may get worse in 12 months' time.

The council has been given a £9m funding cut by the Welsh Assembly and is also facing increased service pressures costing £11m for 2014/15 and Councillor Jones said the same could happen the year after.

He said: "We are about to start the most comprehensive look at council services ever and I have to be honest, the future is bleak."

"What worries me even more is that it could be the same again in 12 months' time and it is worrying. Tough times are here with us now and absolutely everything will be looked at."

"We are going to look at services and see if we can do anything differently, or if someone else can do it cheaper – can someone else provide a service for us that is better and costs less money?"

"We need facilities as a council which will be more suited to austere times – buildings, absolutely everything will be looked at in detail."

Councillor Jones said work on a new operating model is already under way to provide a more efficient and effective service delivery in response to austerity measures introduced as part of the country's spending review.

He added: "We have to transform the way we deliver public services, with greater emphasis on collaboration and partnership working – the traditional approach is simply not sustainable."

"Providing public services in a large rural authority is far more costly than in smaller more urban areas and it is a matter of great concern that this year's funding settlement does not recognise that fact."

"We have made considerable progress in

the past months adopting a new operating model that puts the focus on service outcomes – what we deliver for our citizens – ensuring sustainable and efficient services that meet the needs of our citizens."

"The latest budget news with its 4.6 per cent cut in funding shows how essential it is that the transformation continues and accelerates. Service demands are increasing, costs are rising and our funding is falling and without change we will not deliver."

"Over the next six months the changes will concentrate on key components central to the way we operate – reducing service costs, simplified management structures and more efficient prices, service delivery changes and priorities and improvements."

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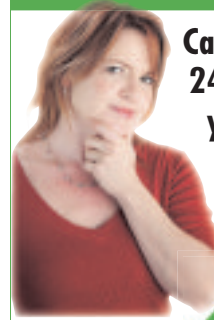
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NEWS

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Food hygiene ratings to be put on public display

FOOD businesses in the Welshpool area will have to display their food hygiene rating – whether good or bad – under a new scheme that comes into force at the end of the month.

The county council's food safety team says anyone that serves or sells food that the statutory scheme covers must display the rating from November 28.

by Graham Breeze

The new law introduced by the Welsh Government, will be based on the current voluntary Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), which is operated by the council in partnership with the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

It will cover places where people eat out including restaurants, takeaways, mobile caterers, cafes, hotels and pubs and places where people show food such as supermarkets and bakeries.

Establishments such as schools, hospitals, children's nurseries and residential homes will also be required to display their rating.

Food outlets will be rated from 0-5 on criteria such as how the food is prepared, cooked, and stored and the condition of the premises and how food safety within the business is managed. A 5 rating means hygiene standards are very good and 0 means urgent improvement is necessary. Under the current voluntary scheme, busi-

nesses do not have to display their rating if they do not wish to do so.

The new law means that food businesses inspected from the end of November will have to display their rating in a prominent place – such as the front door or window – and at every entrance. The business operator and relevant staff will also have to provide the information verbally if asked.

Councillor Barry Thomas, Cabinet Member responsible for Food Safety, said: "Good food hygiene is important to consumers and food businesses, too, and this new scheme will benefit both parties."

"For consumers, the rating will mean they are able to make informed decisions about where they choose to eat or shop for food."

New stickers will be issued for inspections carried out from the end of November, which businesses will be required to display.

Thespians help leukaemia sufferer Joel



Vickie Haywood receives a clapperboard "cheque" from Tracy Knowles and Emma Parry. Picture: Peter Shah.

A GROUP of amateur performers has handed over a donation of £500 to an Oswestry man who is fighting leukaemia for the third time.

The Very Nice Production Company, which is based in a studio at the British Ironwork Centre, Aston, near Oswestry, raised the money at a cabaret show held at The Venue, Park Hall, in October.

Tracy Knowles, producer at the Very Nice Production Company, presented the donation this week to Joel's Goal – a charity set up to help Joel Hassall, a 22-year-old who is battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma for the third time.

"We've probably raised about £16,000 since we started in 1998," she said. "We've given money to Hope House, Severn Hospice and the neo natal unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, but this is the first time we've given to a private person."

Members of the group put on the show with songs from the musicals, modern chart songs and old time favourites, and Tracy said she was delighted at how popular the performance had been.

"The room was absolutely packed. We had singing, a little bit of acting in some of the songs, and we did all our own lighting and had a flame thrower on stage," she said.

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NEWS



FIGURES released this week revealing that ambulances have failed to reach patients on time for the last two years in Powys are hardly a shock.

Take a look at the situation and you soon become aware of the impossible position facing the Welsh Ambulance Service in the rural community.

Ambulance staff are given eight minute targets to reach their destinations and quite frankly in the majority of cases that's absolutely impossible.

When the suits set these targets did any of them have any understanding of the geography of Powys?

It doesn't take a genius to work out that getting an ambulance from Welshpool to somewhere like Llanrhaeadr in eight minutes is beyond the realms of possibility.

Surely there must be different rules for our towns and cities for Powys, because even with investment in additional vehicles and staff these targets are unreasonable.

Even the air ambulance takes longer than eight minutes in the majority of cases.

THE world of car rallying came to Chirk on Saturday and that meant horrendous travel conditions for hundreds of motorists and not just those following the event.

Hundreds of enthusiasts and other motorists were stranded in traffic trying to get to Chirk Castle as rally organisers failed to cope with the sheer volumes trying to get to the event.

There is no doubting the economic value of bringing the event to the area but more thought must go into the organisation of one of the world's biggest rallying occasions.

And once again the true rally enthusiast was let down by the idiotic followers who seem to think they own our roads and are allowed to overtake on double white lines and blind bends. Madness!

WE HAD a smattering of snow on Monday and we are already talking ourselves into a crisis.

Those setting the news agendas seemingly can't wait to tell us how bad things are going to be.

Blocked roads, chaotic scenes, closed schools and gloom and doom all round are the written and spoken predictions.

Is there really any need for it all? Winter is here and in winter we get snow and frost, just as the rest of Europe does.

Why has the weather become such big news in this country?

If we were facing a tsunami or a hurricane I could understand it but doesn't winter follow the autumn every year?



Oswestry Library celebrates five years of their services. Pictures: Peter Shah.

Guide opens book on library services

AN A to Z list has been compiled to demonstrate the huge number of services now offered by Oswestry library.

The list was compiled to celebrate the library's fifth birthday.

Staff said after compiling the list they were surprised themselves about how many services the library now offers, proving the days of libraries being quiet buildings with dusty books were now long gone.

Branch manager Debbie Marais said: "Libraries are now lively, welcoming and interesting places.

"Our core business if you like is encouraging reading for pleasure.

"Various studies have shown many people find great enjoyment from that and it also helps achieve academic success.

"On top of the reading modern libraries, such as here in Oswestry, have become a vital part of the community.

Learn

"Certainly in the last five years we have seen the number of visitors increase and now we get about 20,000 visitors a month.

"Libraries are great place to learn and we are told by people who come here that Oswestry library has become a great place to meet and to hold meetings.

"We have various events held in the library and for example we have a knitting club and the ladies there have said the library is a super place to meet and pass on their skills.

"The A to Z list demonstrates just some of the activities we have going. It must have taken me about two days to think of all the services we provide and put them in a list.

"It is pretty extensive and is a

by Iain St John

great way of showing what we do as we celebrate the fifth birthday."

A behind the scenes tour was held on Monday to show town councillors some of that work that the public doesn't often see.

"There was a brief tour of the library including the customer service hub area to see what new services are now on offer and a short talk by volunteers from the Oswestry Family and Local History Group about their research and drop-in sessions.

"There was also a short demonstration of the online resources available through the library service."

Although Monday's event was for town councillors, the library does offer similar behind the scenes tours to groups.

For more information contact the library on (01691) 677388.

Learning at Lunchtime events are being held at the library.

The first is on November 29 called "Shropshire's Secret Sleeper," an illustrated talk on hazel dormice by Hannah Farley from Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The drop-in session is from 11am-12noon and the talk from 12noon-1pm. Places need booking with library staff.



Monica Burgwin and Mandy Burghin research local history.

The next event is "Why Garden BirdWatchers Matter!" a talk by Claire Backshall from the British Trust for Ornithology on Wednesday, December 4 with a drop-in session from 10am-12pm and the talk from 12noon-1pm.

This will be a chance to find out more about becoming part of the network of "citizen scientists" who monitor the changing fortunes of birds and other garden wildlife across the country.

Decline

Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and published in leading journals.

It is this network of BTO Garden BirdWatchers who have charted the decline of the House Sparrow, the rise of the Wood Pigeon and have discovered that urban birds get up later than their rural counterparts.

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago The Music Charts started and this column will look back at the charts this week, six, 16, 26 and 36 years ago

SIX YEARS AGO... 2007

Leona Lewis won the third year of X Factor and is the most successful

act ever to come out of that show. Her second of three number one singles Bleeding Love went to the top of the charts in no less than 30 countries and stayed at number one in the UK for seven weeks. Her debut number one A Moment Like This broke world records when, on its release, was downloaded 50,000 times in 30 minutes.

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO... 1997

Barbie Airl became a global smash for Aqua and their first single spent four weeks at the top of the charts, although only reaching seventh in the USA. The Scandinavian group had two more number one records and despite sales of over 14 million albums they decided in 2001 to call it a day.

TWENTY SIX YEARS AGO... 1987

The 600th number one record belonged to T'Pau and their second single China In Your Hand. The group from Shropshire had the pleasure of removing The Bee Gees from the top of the charts and

would hold on to the top spot for five weeks. The group's name came from Mr Spock's Vulcan friend in Star Trek.

Their next record Valentine just managed the top 10 but in 1993 they disbanded.

THIRTY SIX YEARS AGO... 1977

The 1970s were successful for so many groups and Abba had seven number one records in this decade including Name of The Game.

Abba shot to stardom with the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest winner Waterloo and went on to have nine number one records.

America never had the same desire for Abba and only Dancing Queen reached the top in the US charts.

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LETTERS

Vaccinate and stop spread of illness

WHY did Britons seldom get tuberculosis after 1953?

That's when mass vaccination started. Why do cattle still get TB? Because they are not vaccinated.

Do all cattle slaughtered due to TB have the disease? No. The criteria for slaughter is having antibodies to TB which simply means that they have been exposed to it.

Children or cattle that have been vaccinated also have antibodies. They don't get the disease but they have antibodies to it.

Do the three quarters of badgers slaughtered all have TB? No. Are the remaining quarter of badgers all free from TB? No. So will the massive slaughter eradicate the disease? No. At best, it will reduce it a little.

The badger cull, pushed by certain people in high places without a proven basis, may slightly reduce the spread of TB.

It is believed that it may bring a 16 per cent reduction in cases. It will take years to prove.

But the intention to destroy three quarters of the badger population is set to roll out to other areas as early as next year. Therefore the cull in Somerset and Gloucester is not a trial but the start of mass eradication irrespective of proof.

The mass destruction of wildlife is unpleasant to decent people with proof.

Without proof it is utterly abhorrent. It just adds to the growing list of misguided initiatives from the same source which demonstrates a lack of real understanding and respect for the environment.

The distress of losing cattle is understood, but wiping out three quarters of another species is probably not the right way to deal with the problem.

PETER KEEN
Oswestry

Tragic tale of two friends

WHAT a tragic story, the young man who killed his friend in Oswestry.

They had had a jolly time drinking together and then foolish words led to fighting. How many stupid and violent things happen through drink? When we lose control of our minds the devil takes over, and his instinct is to steal, kill and destroy.

RON JONES
St Martins

Illegal parking is the real problem

I READ your article on the school parking chaos in Whittington with disbelief.

The developers were right. The real cause of the problem is inconsiderate and illegal parking.

I often see parents park on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school which are there to keep the school clear of cars and is also illegal to park on.

They park in the bus stops, I've even seen them stop on the zebra crossing. I have seen an ambulance unable to get

past double parked cars with the blue lights flashing.

The so called 20mph zone is not actually a law it's a recommendation, which I would agree with, but it is not enforceable by law. As for HGV's there is no other road for them to use to get across the country and cannot alter their times to suit lazy parents who drive their children to school.

I say lazy because I often see parents drive their children to school who live less than 1/4 mile from the school. I've seen people who live near the Olde

Boote inn, Fitzwarine Drive, Yew Tree Avenue, Penybryn Avenue etc. Need I go on?

I am fed up with the inconsiderate parking and urge the headmaster to crack down on people who live in the village driving their children to school.

It will also be good for the health of the children. We might even be able to use our village shop at school run times because at the moment we can't get anywhere near it.

GRAEME BORTHWICK
Whittington

Hard work at school spoiled by new rules

I WRITE entirely on my own behalf - my views are not representative of anyone else or of the school concerned.

A few weeks ago my local primary school received an Ofsted visit, with the now half a day's notice.

Three years previously the school was awarded "outstanding" in 12 out of the assessable 14 categories, with "very good" in the other two.

Since then the school has worked tirelessly to tweak and to sharpen systems of pupil tracking, governance, and professional self-development, of all the aspects that Ofsted could wish the school to attend to.

If it was outstanding three years ago, then with these tweaks and amendments it ought still to be so.

But the chief of Ofsted, Sir Michael Willshaw, decided a few months ago, on goodness knows what evidence, that too many schools were being given "outstanding" ratings, and he decreed that some of these outstanding verdicts be changed to something less.

As a result, schools deemed outstanding and very good have found themselves downgraded, even put in special measures.

A couple of functionaries descended on the school, and managed in the space of six hours to damage the morale of a good proportion of the staff, and came up with the verdict which they had almost certainly been sent to provide - that the school had somehow, despite improvements, slipped a category.

As a member of the governing body I went to meet these functionaries and was singularly unimpressed by the tone and content of questioning, designed to sidestep all the demonstrably impressive elements of the school. As one parent said to me afterwards: "It was an outstanding school on Monday morning, and on Thursday, it still is."

What is more, dear Sir Michael, presumably aided by Michael Gove, has decided which boxes need to be ticked, and whether they play a significant part in the running and success of the school is irrelevant.

I cannot deny inspection has helped to sharpen up school, but its role seems changed from critical support to political weaponry.

IAN MELLOR
Whittington

Carnival's characters date back to 1930



HANDWRITTEN on the back of this print is: "Waxwork Carnival at Oswestry, 1930." Back row, fourth from left marked with a cross is Kath Renshaw, who was born in 1911, so would have been about 19. The photo comes from her daughter Mrs Jean Roe who says her mother was one of the first three students of the newly-created Derwen College at Gobowen, so it is possible that the others were from Derwen College as well.

Help spread the warmth in winter

PUT yourself in an older person's shoes this winter. As we approach the colder months and the dark nights begin to set in, life can be harsh for many older people.

Thousands will live in just one room in their home to keep warm, many won't see another person for up to a month and others will rely on the television as their only company.

Tragically, more than 1,000 older people in Wales died last year because of the cold.

That is why Age Cymru, the national charity for older people in Wales, needs companies, individuals, and organisations to help us to 'Spread the Warmth'.

All of the money we raise from our Spread the Warmth campaign will go to support older people through the winter. If you would like to 'Spread the Warmth', why not organise a 'Winter Warmer'?

We can send you a fundraising pack that's full of ideas to help you organise a Winter Warmer - just contact Age Cymru on 029 2043 1555 and ask to speak to Emma Lionel or Nia Butler for more information.

You can also request a pack by e-mailing fundraising@agecymru.org.uk

It is our collective duty to ensure that older people are not forgotten through the winter months, so let's all do our bit and 'Spread the Warmth' this winter.

RICHARD NICHOLLS
Director of Income Resources
Age Cymru

LETTERS to the Editor

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Readers' Letters,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Wonderful care from all staff at hospital

WITH all the recent criticism regarding the NHS and the care that goes on in some hospitals, I decided to tell of the wonderful care I have received during the past 10 years at the Gobowen Hospital with my illness - rheumatoid arthritis.

I have had five operations - two total knee replacements, with Mr White, one total hip replacement, with Mr Banerjee, and two operations on my feet, with Mr Bing, all very clever surgeons.

The rheumatology sisters are second to none, always available on the helpline to assist with any problems.

I would like to thank them all at this fine hospital for all the care and attention I have received.

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I GET OVERLOOKED FOR PROMOTION BECAUSE OF MY SON'S HEALTH PROBLEMS

Q. I am a single parent and I work full time in the office of a local factory. My 12-year old son suffers with cystic fibrosis and I regularly need to take time off work to attend medical appointments with him. I know my manager resents this and he always manages to make me feel guilty when I ask for time off.

Despite the fact that I have applied for promotion at every possible opportunity, I feel that I am constantly being overlooked for promotion and often others with far less experience get it instead of me. There have also been unpleasant comments made by my manager regarding my son's illness. I and others who see all this feel that I am being unfairly treated due to my son's illness. Is there anything that I can do about it?

A. Under the Equality Act your son's illness is likely to be defined as a disability and would therefore be a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

The Equality Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person due to a protected characteristic held by another person. This is known as associative discrimination. In this instance it appears that you may be being discriminated against (or being subjected to unfavourable treatment) due to your son's illness.

In such matters it is always wise to seek expert legal advice as early as possible. This is because the deadlines for commencing such claims can be very short. To bring a claim against your employer, for example, the time limit is just three months from the last act of discrimination or unfavourable treatment. So I would suggest that you make an appointment to see a specialist employment solicitor immediately.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.

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NEWS

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Free offer urging the elderly to keep warm

PEOPLE over 60 in the Welshpool area can get a free thermometer from their local Age Cymru branch to help them keep warm this winter.

The national older people's charity has produced the bilingual thermometer cards as part of its annual Keep Well this Winter campaign.

Rhian Pearce, of the charity, said: "Older people need to keep their homes warm during the winter months because the cold can have a detrimental effect on their health."

"Exposure to cold temperatures can lead to older people suffering from hypothermia and increase the risk of a stroke, heart attack or respiratory illnesses."

"This is why it is so important that older people are able to heat their homes between the safe range of 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 18 to 21 degrees Celsius."

"Age Cymru has produced these thermometer cards to help older people keep their homes at the right temperature this winter."

The thermometers are available now to older people from: Age Concern, Market Street, Newtown.

Popular festive craft fair to be held twice in the same day

AN ANNUAL women-only Christmas craft fair has proved so popular that it will be held twice in one day this year.

Painted glassware, Christmas tree decorations, knitted hats and scarves, and mince pies will all be served up at Holy Trinity Church in Roft Street, in Oswestry, on Friday.

But in a change from previous years, there will be an afternoon fair as well as an evening event.

Holy Trinity vicar the Rev Paul Darlington said: "Due to the wonderful turnouts in previous years, we have decided to hold two fairs on the same day."

"As always, this is a fantastic opportunity to browse and buy, and chat with friends over mince pies and mulled apple juice, and learn about the true meaning of Christmas."

"Like previous years, there will be lots of stalls to visit. Free refreshments will be served part way through and there will be a short talk with a Christmas theme."

Mr Darlington said the fair had been started as a way to invite non-Christians into the church.

by Pam Griffin

But he said it had grown so popular with church-goers as well as those who don't attend regularly that organisers had decided to hold a second event.

"The fair is not designed for Christians, and in previous years we have run out of space for non-Christians because so many believers have come without any deliberate attempt to bring a non-Christian with them," he said.

"So if you are a Christian wanting to come to the craft fair, please make a deliberate and concerted effort to bring someone with you who does not go to church anywhere."

The fair is at 12.30pm-2.30pm and 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Shop sign is damaged by vandals

POLICE are seeking information after a shop sign was damaged in Montgomery between 11am and 2pm on November 13. The sign was advertising the shop Indigo Moon. If you can help call PC Huw Morgan at Newtown Police Station on 101.

Continental flavour as market hits town's streets



Some of the stalls in Welshpool High Street. Pictures: Richard Bishop.

WELSHPOOL foodies got a taste of the Mediterranean when a continental market was held in the town on Sunday.

The town centre was packed with more than 20 stalls, serving fresh and hot food from four countries across Europe.

Market organiser Olivier Simonin said: "There were French biscuits and dry cured

meat, Greek dried fruit snacks, Italian olives and Spanish paella."

The market has been touring all over Europe, from Bergen to Boston, and was in Stafford the week before Welshpool.

Mr Simonin's job is to round up the traders from across the continent and bring them over to the UK's town centres.



Kenzie and Liam Williams from Welshpool choosing some treats.

However, the market organiser was worried about the longevity of the continental market in Welshpool.

He said: "The first couple of times we come it's a success but then it's not a novelty anymore."

"But we had a really good day in May. I think we'll bring about 30 stalls next time."

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NEWS

Workers help keep appeal's lines open

PHONE technicians at BT's Network Management Centre in Oswestry had a successful evening keeping the lines running for BBC Children in Need last weekend.

The centre, which employs people from around Shropshire, is the eyes and ears of the UK's and international communications networks and had to cope with an extra 200,000 calls across the network during the annual fundraising telenovela.

Emma Tennant, from BT, said: "Everything went smoothly for Children in Need on Friday evening.

"The number of people ringing in to make a donation increased as the evening went on. The network team monitored calls in hourly slots and the most popular time to call was between 9pm and 10pm.

"As usual, there were spikes in calls at various times during the evening as donors were encouraged to call in to pledge money after seeing a favourite celebrity perform or an emotive appeal.

"One of the biggest surges in calls came after Ellie Goulding's performance just before 10pm. Gary Barlow's particularly emotive appeal earlier in the evening also generated a peak."

Sex offender faces jail over indecent images of children

A JUDGE has adjourned sentence on a Four Crosses man who he regarded as a danger to children.

Judge Rhys Rowlands said that the case of Stephen Meredith, 60, a convicted sex offender who had downloaded indecent images of children, was disturbing.

Meredith was due to be sentenced at Mold Crown Court last Thursday but the judge adjourned the case to give Dyfed Powys Police and the CPS a chance to draw up a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) to curb his activities on his release from the inevitable prison sentence that he would receive. The judge remanded him in custody pending sentence in two weeks time.

by Graham Breeze

Building starts on new homes at offices site

BUILDING work has started on 14 new affordable homes in Oswestry at the site of the town's former tax offices.

The Wrekin Housing Trust bought the site at Middleton Road earlier this year and work has now started on the homes, which will be for local people to rent.

The new development will include eight two-bedroom houses and six two-bedroom bungalows, all built to the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 standards.

The design for the homes was drawn up after consultation with residents.

The Wrekin Housing Trust is also working on developments in Plas Fynnon, which will provide three new three-bedroom family homes and on homes in St Martins.

All of the homes will be advertised via Shropshire Council's Homepoint system.

"This is a very, very worrying case," the judge told him. "It is a case which I view very seriously. There will be an immediate custodial sentence."

He said that the court would have to consider an extended sentence with an extended licence.

"In my view he poses a very real threat to young children, may be not directly at this stage."

The judge said that he was aware of some of the search words the defendant had used and said that if he was searching for such material then a child somewhere in the world was being abused.

Meredith of The Old Creamery at Four Crosses previously appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court where he admitted four charges relating to indecent images of children. Police officers were making a routine check at Meredith's home in May because he was a convicted sex offender and he told them that he had "something on my computer that's not good".

He said he was 'weak-willed' and had nothing else in his life. He had also made a number of searches on internet engines.

The defendant admitted three charges of making indecent images and one charge of possessing indecent images.

He was remanded in custody.

Toy appeal will help hospice



David McCarthy from The Plough Inn in Weston Rhyn launches their Hope House toy appeal. Picture: Peter Shah.

A PUB has launched its annual toy appeal to bring a bit of extra comfort and fun to the young patients at the county's children's hospice this Christmas.

The Plough Inn at Weston Rhyn has been running the appeal for 13 years, with all the donated items passed on to Hope House Children's Hospice at Morda near Oswestry.

Every year the initiative has got larger and larger. The scheme is overseen by publican Dave McCarthy. He said: "It never

ceases to amaze us how generous people are in giving what they can. We are in tough economic times but everybody is still very generous.

"By and large we tend to get more toys and books every year we do it so the appeal keeps growing and I know the charity is very grateful.

"By the end of the appeal the table we keep the toys on is usually packed with toys and books."

Choirs to present concert of carols

CANTIONES Chamber Choir will be joined by children from the Bellan House Singers of Oswestry School for its Carols by Candlelight concert at Christ Church, Oswestry, on December 14.

As well as carols, Cantiones will perform excerpts from Rachmaninov's Vespers and the ladies section will perform excerpts from Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, accompanied by harpist Alice French.

The concert will be repeated without the Bellan House Singers and harpist on December 17 at St Mary's Church, Chirk. Both concerts are at 7.30pm.

Cantiones' musical director Gerry Howe said: "We are delighted to be sharing the stage with these enthusiastic young singers, who have been practising under the leadership of Sue Morris."

Tickets £9 adults, under 16s free, from Rowanthorn, Old Chapel Court and Oswestry Heritage Centre, or call (01691) 238227.

Donor figures

ONLY six per cent of people eligible to donate blood in the Welshpool area do so, it has been revealed. The figure follows the national average. For more information about being a donor see <http://www.blood.co.uk/>

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NEWS

01691 668094

NEWS

in brief

Singers are to be reunited in town

A REUNION of members of the Welshpool St Mary's Players and St Mary's Singers will take place in the Church House Welshpool on December 1 between 2.30pm and 5.30pm.

All former cast members, front of house staff and backstage crew are invited to attend. It is 21 years since the players performed their last play and 29 years since the singers produced their last musical.

"It will be so nice to see people there," said a spokesman for the organisers. "Some are travelling from a distance. It promises to be a real nostalgic occasion".

Cadets' shooting contest success

WELSHPOOL'S 2364 Sqn Air Cadets have continued their successes, this time in shooting.

Competing in a national shooting competition featuring Air, Sea and Army cadets from across the country, FS Gill, Sgt Duffy, Sgt Evans (2416) and A/Cpl ATC, 14th overall and first in Wales. They came second in the team snap.

Bingo night fun

A CHRISTMAS prize bingo evening will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Oldford School, Welshpool. Doors open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7pm.

Essential work to protect water supply completed

ESSENTIAL work to protect the water supply to Welshpool's hospital as well as the town's Gungrog School and to homes in the area is now complete, Severn Trent has said.

Following a flurry of burst water pipes and interruptions to Welshpool customers' water supply, Severn Trent Water brought forward part of its plans to invest £250,000 and has now completed work to renew 350 metres of water pipes in Gungrog Road.

Severn Trent Water's programme engineer, Dave Kiernan, said: "We'd like to thank the residents of Welshpool for their patience while we completed the work in Gungrog Road."

"There was some disruption, but it is worth it in the long term."

Replace

"The water pipes in the area had served the local community for a very long time."

"This means their age, and the increased demand for water had led to recent bursts, causing interruptions to our customers' water supply and the service we provide."

"We'd planned to replace nearly two kilometres of pipe in the area early next year."

"But due to the burst pipes affecting both the hos-

pital and Gungrog Infants School, we accelerated our plans.

"We've now completed the work to replace 350 metres of water pipes on Gungrog Road and those pipes are now in use, meaning that the water supply to the residents of Welshpool is now much more secure."

"The work to renew the remainder of the pipes will start next year as originally planned - and we will keep customers informed of our plans for the area nearer to the time."

Customers started experiencing problems with their water supply in the areaback in September.

Erw Wen and Maes Owen were among the areas hit by a loss of supply or low water pressure.

The Victoria Memorial Hospital was left without water twice in three days.

This meant that the fire service had to step in to provide emergency supplies to the hospital.

Steam loco to be brought back into service



Sir Drefaldwyn, which has not steamed since May.

A STEAM locomotive that was formerly a mainstay of the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway (W&LLR) fleet is to return to service after being out of use for more than 13 years.

Trustees on the 2ft 6in gauge mid-Wales line have agreed the restoration of no 699.01 "Sir Drefaldwyn," which has not steamed since May 2000.

Built in 1944 for the German military by Societe Franco-Belge in occupied France to a design by Berliner Maschinenbau AG (Schwartzkopff), the loco was intended to support the

German Army on the Eastern Front.

However, it is believed that it did not see service before the German rail stores depot fell to Allied occupation forces, and instead it passed in 1946 to the Salzkammergut Lokalbahn (SKLB) near Salzburg in Austria.

The loco spent 23 years on the Austrian narrow gauge, during which it was sold to the Steiermärkische Landesbahnen (StLB) in 1955. Here it received its 699.01 number and was rebuilt from an 0-8-0 side tank and tender configuration to become a

purely side tank engine. Soon after the W&LLR formed strong links with the Austrian lines and the result was the arrival in Wales of the first of the signature Austrian balcony-ended carriages in 1968.

The W&LLR badly needed another locomotive, and the no 699.01 arrived in Llanfair Caereinion in 1969.

The restoration cost is currently estimated to be around £62,000, and early in the new year an appeal will be launched.

Big Ideas Challenge targets the young

YOUNG people aged between 16 and 24 in the Welshpool area have the chance to spark their "big ideas" into business reality after the launch of the Big Ideas Wales Challenge.

One of the largest campaigns undertaken to identify and develop Wales' young entrepreneurs of the future has been launched by the Welsh Government backed by "Secret Millionaire" Kevin Green and SuperStars entrepreneur, James Taylor.

Young people are being invited to apply for 50 places on the Big Ideas Wales Challenge, launched by Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, Ken Skates AM.

The Challenge will scour Wales, interviewing hundreds of young people aged between 16 and 24 seeking their "big ideas" and helping to develop 50 of these into commercial opportunities.

The Challenge begins with the auditions in December across Wales, backed by pledges from businesses, individuals and organisations, followed by a boot camp in January.

Details can be found at www.bigideaswales.com

Businesses can pledge help such as branding and PR packages, trade stands, office space, accounting packages, capital investment and equipment. Pledges on www.bigideaswales.com

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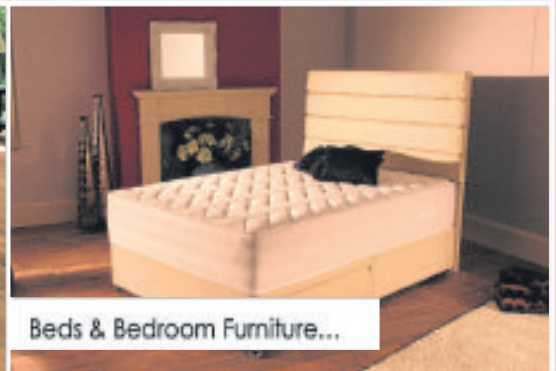
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WELSHPOOL

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Letters may arrive later in mail delivery shake-up

Autumn art fun at castle



POWIS Castle was making the most of the season by hosting an Autumn collage class where visitors to the National Trust site at Welshpool were encouraged to show their artistic side by making a design from objects collected in the castle grounds. Lucy Forth with her daughter Isabelle, 10, from Ludlow are pictured picking the perfect leaf for her collage. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

by Graham Breeze

WELSHPOOL residents are being warned they could be receiving their mail later in the day in future under new delivery arrangements.

Royal Mail bosses said changes are being made to deliveries in the SY15 and SY21 postcode areas over the next few weeks.

While the changes will mean some residents will get their mail earlier, some may also have mail delivered later, the firm said.

Spokeswoman Val Bodden said: "Postmen and women will use new delivery methods and adopt revised delivery routes as these changes are introduced on a phased basis.

"We are writing to every address in Welshpool about these changes and this includes households, businesses and other organisations.

"Royal Mail will continue to deliver in the morning and for a longer period during the day. Many customers will continue to get their mail by lunchtime.

"The time customers receive mail will depend on where they live on the new delivery route. This may be later or possibly earlier than current delivery times.

"When mail volumes vary, we may need to adjust delivery arrangements and times. The way in which we communicate with each other has changed dramatically.

"Unfortunately, fewer letters are now posted every day and Royal Mail needs to organise its delivery routes to be as efficient as possible.

"We also deliver an increasing number of larger items and so we are investing in new equipment to carry these items to customers even more securely.

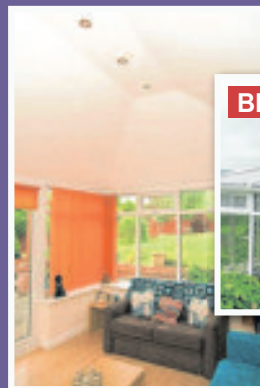
"These changes will require a period of adjustment for staff. However, Royal Mail will be doing everything possible to maintain a high level of service and thanks customers for their understanding."

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Rotarians ask public 'dig deep' for victims

WELSHPOOL'S Rotarians were on the streets of the town on Saturday asking local folk to dig deep for the disaster-hit residents of the Philippines.

The horrific hurricane came less than a year after a crippling earthquake hit the south east Asian country, and the club was bidding to buy a "Shelterbox" to send out as soon as possible.

"We realise the timing is not good, clashing with the Children in Need appeal, but neither was the timing of the terrific hurricane which devastated the people of the Philippines," said Rotarian Mike Edwards.

"An earthquake and a world record hurricane in one year has to be unbearable."

The club has already funded two shelterboxes this year.

Each box contains a fully kitted tent, a cooker, blankets, fleeces and other items to help support a family of 10.

Each one costs approximately £600 and is tracked so that Rotary can follow to where it has been delivered.

Club members will return to Welshpool's streets again this coming Saturday.



Some of the stalls at the Food and Craft fair. Pictures: Ian Sheppard.



Customers look for bargains at the fair



Rachel Simpson from the Chirk Trout Farm Smokery

Revamped pub has reopened its doors

ONE OF Montgomeryshire's best-known pubs has reopened for business, with its new landlords promising a return to its past glories.

The Oak Inn at Guilsfield has suffered in recent times and has spent several lengthy spells closed to customers in between a number of changes of management.

But following weeks of back-breaking work, the pub has been totally refurbished by its new landlords.

"We've totally revamped from top to bottom but it has been worth all the hard work," said Carl Hares, who takes it on with his wife Laura, who hails from the village.

"Everything has been renovated, from the beer pipes to the kitchen, toilets and children's playground, so we are looking forward to some feedback this weekend from the customers."

Carl said that they would be serving "top quality homemade food" by the end of the month.

He added that the drinks prices will be "very competitive".

All the fun of the festive fair as thousands snap up presents

THOUSANDS of early Christmas shoppers chose a craft and food fair to hunt for festive bargains at the weekend.

The annual Coed y Dinas winter fair in Welshpool drew customers in from 8.30am on Saturday until the doors closed on Sunday afternoon.

It was a boost for local craft and food producers who had set up more than 50 stalls in the grounds of the shopping and garden centre on the edge of Welshpool, over the two days.

Manager, Mr Adam Blakemore, said: "By about 10am on Saturday we must have had 1,000 customers arrive and they just kept coming over the weekend. It was a great success."

by **Graham Breeze**

He said entertainment was provided by the Porthywaen Silver Band on Saturday and by the Fron Male Voice Choir on the Sunday.

Mr Blakemore said: "We also had television chef Malcolm Harradine giving a cookery demonstration on the winter theme throughout the two days."


"There was face painting for the children and of course all our festive lights and decorations were up."

"We started the winter fair two years ago and it has been more and more popular each year."

"I think people are happy to shop locally without the hassle of Christmas shopping in the big cities."



Nadine Roach from the Kerry Vale Vineyard




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NEWS

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Hospital appoints new spinal surgeon**Mr Matthew Ockendon**

A NEW consultant spinal surgeon has been appointed to the staff at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Matthew Ockendon, 37, has joined the spinal disorders consultant team having worked at the hospital since 2006.

Originally from Birmingham, Mr Ockendon went to school in Worcestershire before heading to medical school at St Marys, London, where he graduated with honours. His basic surgical training and research was in Bristol, then he undertook his specialist orthopaedic training in Oswestry.

He then became the Norman Capener Spinal Fellow at Exeter.

Mr Ockendon said: "This was my first choice for pursuing my career - Oswestry comes highly recommended and has always appealed to me."

"I trained here and know colleagues and the environment well."

Man jailed for unprovoked attack on innocent clubber

A MAN who launched an unprovoked attack at a Welshpool nightclub has been jailed for 14 months.

Martin Evans rushed at his victim and punched him so hard to the face that he knocked him unconscious and fractured his eye socket, Mold Crown Court was told.

Evans, 33, of Bryn y Ddol in Welshpool, who had a number of previous convictions for violence, admitted a GBH charge.

Judge Niclas Parry said that the offence in April was sadly not out of character because he had behaved violently in the past.

"In drink, you struck another young man for no reason at all," the judge said.

Evans had been hanging around the complainant's group in the nightclub, staring at them.

He then crossed the floor at some speed and then without warning punched him heavily to the face.

Judge Parry said that it was "a cowardly, unprovoked and entirely unexpected attack."

It rendered victim Nathan France unconscious and he sustained a serious injury to his eye socket.

It had been a very heavy blow which resulted in massive swelling to the face, his nose was crooked, his orbit bone had been fractured and he had been off work for two and a half weeks.

by Andrew Morris

It was accepted that the defendant had a very different side to him when sober. But the offence was the latest in a catalogue of violent offending.

Andrew McInnes, prosecuting, said that Mr France, 21, was out with friends and described himself as merry. He had no recollection of the incident.

Evans himself was said to have been moving fast, had "jumped into the blow".

Mr McInnes said that Evans had previous convictions for 26 offences - nine for offences against the person and four for public order.

Jonathan Austin, defending, said: "The offending has been caused by his inability to hold his drink."

He said that there were also other issues in his life for which the defendant needed on-going counselling.

He suggested a suspended sentence but the judge said that he had been dealt with very leniently in the past.

Fears raised after cracks appear on road

HUGE cracks have appeared on a road beside the Llangollen Canal, raising fears that the area could be suffering from major subsidence.

The long cracks have made the road running alongside the waterway in Chirk Bank uneven and dangerous, according to residents.

Community leaders have also voiced their concern about the damage to the road, which is used as an access by people who live beside the canal.

They say the road has to be maintained to a high standard not just for safety reasons but to ensure its deteriorating state does not lead to the area losing its World Heritage Site status.

Ella St John, who lives in Chirk Bank, said: "The damage started appearing a few years ago but in the last month it has got an awful lot worse."

"I think it could be subsidence because cracks have become very big now. They are making the road really quite uneven."

"It is bad at the moment and you could easily trip but it will be a lot worse in the winter months when it is covered in ice or snow. It could be treacherous for cyclists and even for people using disability scooters I suppose."

"I raised the issue at Weston Rhyn Parish Council and have asked the councillors to go and take a look at it."

"I have also asked the Canal and River Trust to take a look because it is

**Ella St John from Chirk Bank takes a look at the road. Picture: Peter Shah.**

only going to get worse. People are asking what is going on with the road and why it is not being repaired because it is so bad."

Angela Bright, chairman of Chirk Bank Community Group, said residents were concerned about the poor state of the road.

She said: "It has become a huge concern because of the extent of the damage. It is a worry if this is down to

subsidence and we do need to have a good look at this to find out exactly what the cause is."

"This is a World Heritage Site and you do worry about them losing the status if the area is not maintained in a way that it should."

Howard Griffiths from the Canal and River Trust said engineers were investigating.

College in link over training students

DERWEN College near Oswestry has linked up with a leading learning organisation to train staff on how to prepare for skills competitions.

Staff from the college at Gobowen took part in the masterclass offered by the Institute for Learning and Worldskills UK then held skills competitions for their students.

Skills competitions are an increasingly important part of training for work and Derwen is a leading exponent in the field for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The four competitions involved students designing posters to advertise the college's Christmas show, planting winter baskets for sale in the garden centre, wrapping and storing foods safely in the fridge and setting up a window display with seasonal goodies for Young's Farm Shop.

Twenty two students participated, coached by eight staff. Derwen called upon some of their industry partners to be judges including Hunter Bevan Limited, Tesco and Shropshire County Council's environment team. Neil Bevan, who judged the arts, media and business studies competition, said: "The skills of the students really exceeded my expectations."

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NEWS

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Director says land prices will stay strong

A DIRECTOR of a leading estate agents predicts that farm and land prices, which have tripled in the last decade to reach a record high in the first half of 2013, will remain strong as the new year approaches.

David Giles, from Halls, believes demand for farms and agricultural land will maintain prices and says it's a good time for farmers and landowners to consider capitalising on the buoyant market.

"Almost without exception, there is good competition for all farms and farmland that comes to the market and I cannot see any reason why that will change going forward into 2014," he said.

"The vast majority of farms and farmland we have sold this year has been purchased by farmers in the locality wishing to expand.

"Profitability in farming for good operators is as good as it has ever been, the taxation regime is helpful and banks are more than happy to lend money to successful farmers.

"If farmers wish to realise some capital, my advice is that they will not be disappointed if they decide to sell now. Whether prices have reached a plateau or will continue to rise is open to conjecture, but I see no sign they will fall in the short term."

Council rejects calls to halt live music in beer garden

CALLS FOR a town centre pub to halt the playing of live music in its beer garden during evenings have been rejected – despite claims noise can be heard from up to a mile away.

The volume of music at the Vaults pub in Church Street in Oswestry has been as high as 80 decibels, the same as some major UK music festivals, a licensing hearing was told.

But members of Shropshire Council's licensing committee rejected an application by the authority's public protection officers to limit the playing of music outdoors to 11pm at a meeting last Thursday.

They instead ordered a noise-limiting device to be put in amplifiers.

They said the level should be set by the public protection officers after consultation with licensee Paul Fitton.

The public protection officers said music from the Vaults pub in Church Street could on occasions be heard a mile away.

They said the Vaults was creating a public nuisance and its licence allowing it to play music until 1am at weekends should be reviewed.

Public protection officer Rob Bowland said the council had received seven complaints about noise in 2012 and 10 this year.

Some centred around the pub's three-day GigFest

by Iain St John

music festival and Mr Bowland called for the music to stop at 11pm.

He said the Osfest music festival, held at a semi rural area at Park Hall, stopped at 11pm and was limited to 65 decibels.

Mr Bowland said: "The level of music at the Vaults is excessive. Not excessive is a volume which does not disturb local residents."

Oswestry man Stephen Howell said he had complained for 18 months about the noise from the Vaults.

He said he owned a property in Welsh Walls which was about 200 metres from the pub.

Mr Howell said: "I am at the point where I am seriously considering selling my property as I don't think I should be in that position."

Co-owner of the Vaults Julie Gibson said action had been taken to limit the volume including the hiring of a music engineer to keep the music at a reasonable level.



Petrina Jones learning mentor at Walford College in Oswestry with Ian Bryan commercial tutor for West Midlands Ambulance Service. Picture: Peter Shah.

Training carried out at college on defibrillator

TRAINING sessions have been held to show staff and students at Walford College how to use a life-saving heart defibrillator.

The equipment was donated to the Oswestry campus of Walford and North Shropshire College by Anne Wilson in memory of her daughter Sue Yost who died in 1995 from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS).

The initiative is part of SADS UK's Big Shock campaign to make defibrillators available in all schools and colleges.

The defibrillator is lifesaving equipment that works to restore the heart rhythm if a person goes into cardiac arrest and the earlier it is used the better the chance is of survival. The defibrillator is easy to use providing voice prompts to the rescuer.

Anne Jolly, founder of SADS UK said: "Anne has raised a lot of awareness in her community about the need for defibrillators in schools."

"Through her fundraising and the generosity of her local rotary club, Walford and North Shropshire College now benefits from having a defibrillator, along with lifesaving training."

"It's good to know that if sudden cardiac arrest occurs the college has a defibrillator quickly available to restart the heart."

A defibrillator is also to be installed at the college's Walford campus thanks to the students' own fundraising efforts.

Book on character edited by town man

A NEW book edited by Oswestry resident Derek Williams was launched recently in the west Cornwall village of Leedstown, the home of its subject.

Richard G. Jenkin: A great son of Cornwall, is a series of essays about a man who, from the 1950s to the 1990s, was at the very centre of Cornish cultural and political life and an important figure in the revival of Cornish consciousness.

As well as original essays about various aspects of his work for Cornwall and the wider Celtic world – two of them by Derek Williams – the book features examples of Jenkin's writings, both poetry and prose, and reminiscences and tributes from personal friends and colleagues.

The book launch was attended by almost 100 invited guests and featured readings of some of Jenkin's writings.

It is published by Francis Boutle Publishers, price £12.50, and is available from Amazon and bookshops.

Staging comedy

THE Attfield Theatre will be bringing a comedy to Oswestry next month. Mike Harding's Last Tango In Whitley is on from December 2 to 7. Tickets, priced £6, on (01691) 680222.

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NEWS

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NEWS

in brief

Music and mince pies at switch-on

FINAL preparations are under way for the switch-on of the 15th annual Rotary Tree of Light in Oswestry.

The lights will go on outside Sainsbury's in Oswestry on November 30 at 5.30pm to the backdrop of live music, mince pies and mulled wine.

The switch-on is seen by many as the start of the town's Christmas festivities.

Organiser, Rotarian Mike Jones, said: "We've had tremendous support." The Rotary Club will be collecting for charity at Sainsbury's on November 29 and 30.

Popular band is back at gallery

THE Gregory S Davies Band will be returning to Oswestry following a sell-out performance earlier in the year.

The band will be appearing at the Willow Gallery, Willow Street, on December 20 at 8pm.

Doors open for the event at 7pm and tickets are £7. To book call (01691) 657575 or email willow.gallery@oswestry@gmail.com

Carols at church

CAROLS will be sung by candlelight at an Advent carol service in Oswestry on December 1. The service will take place at St Oswald's Parish Church, Church Street, at 6.30pm.

Bedroom tax in spotlight at public meeting in town

A DISABILITY rights campaigner has urged people to attend a public meeting which will look at the impact of the Government's bedroom tax.

Angela Bright, chairman of the Oswestry Access Group, said the tax was "another attack on the most vulnerable people in society".

She said many disabled people needed a second bedroom in their home to allow relatives who care for them to stay over on a temporary basis or to store vital medical equipment.

The recently formed campaign group the Oswestry Equality Group will hold the public meeting at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre in Oswestry on Thursday.

Mrs Bright said: "The Oswestry Access Group backs the great work the Oswestry Equality Group is doing in bringing these issues to the public."

"Many disabled people will have been hit by the bedroom tax."

"In my eyes, it is very unfair and I am very much against this because I see it as another attack on the most vulnerable people in society."

"How can you penalise people with disabilities who live in local authority housing for having a second bedroom?"

"They need care, some-

by Iain St John

times if they are on dialysis they might need the second bedroom to put their equipment in.

"Relatives may have to stay over if they become unwell to care for them."

The bedroom tax was introduced in April and means many people won't receive their full housing benefit if they are judged to have a spare room.

Mrs Bright added: "Councils have been even giving out advice to people on the best way to get tenants in."

"Surely being forced to share your house with a stranger to avoid losing your benefits is a personal safety issue?"

"I would urge everyone to get along to the meeting so they can find out the real impact of this tax."

The talks, which start at 7.30pm, will not only look at the bedroom tax but the wider impact of the Government's welfare reforms.

Sadness as castle's popular swan dies



Bill and Betty, Whittington Castle's mute swans. Bill has died and Betty has disappeared with her cygnets.

ONE OF Whittington Castle's swans has died after going lame and his partner and cygnets have moved on.

Bill, the male mute swan who lived in the moat at Whittington Castle, was put to sleep by the RSPCA after developing incurable problems with his legs.

Castle manager Sue Ellis said he had been having problems with his leg since last year and had been cared for by RSPCA officers at Stapley Grange sanctuary in Cheshire. She said: "He

went to the sanctuary last year for treatment, and then came back. Unfortunately the leg had got a lot worse over the last few months. Last week he went really lame and the RSPCA took him to see if they could give him medical attention."

"They put him on painkillers but they thought he would probably never recover and it was deemed necessary to put him to sleep rather than suffer any longer. Apparently it's quite a common

problem with swans." She said all the castle staff were sad to hear about Bill's death last Monday.

"He was at least 16-years-old and will be greatly missed from the castle moat," she said.

"His life long partner Betty and the three remaining cygnets seem to have moved on. Apparently this is common with swans when no male can protect them. We wait to see what will happen if a new pair will take up residence."

Music in the park policy set to change

THE policy on the playing of music at a showpiece public park could be about to change.

Councillors were being asked last night whether they wanted to apply for a change in licence to allow the playing of amplified music at Cae Glas Park in Oswestry. But the councillors will also be told the level of the music will be closely monitored so nearby residents are not disturbed.

Council bosses say the move would allow other music styles rather than just the park's traditional brass band music to be played.

A report to Oswestry Town Council's amenities committee asked councillors to consider their policy on the licensing of amplified music.

The report says: "Traditionally silver band music has been the mainstay of the summer entertainment in the park's bandstand but following the success of this year's diverse schedule of alternative music it has been requested that a variation to the park's premises licence be obtained to allow for amplified music."

"As the events are generally on a weekend and due to the proximity of residential premises, then policy guidance is sought."

"It has been recognised that some events in the park require amplified music."

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CHRISTMAS

WMO boasts special offers for Christmas

WELSHPOOL-based Welsh beef and lamb (WMO) cutting plant is arranging a series of Christmas special offers and hampers are now available to order.

The company, located in Welsh Centre of Excellence for Butchery Skills at Unit 13, Severn Farm Enterprise Park, specialises in supplying top quality meat that can be traced to the farm where the animal was reared.

Meat sales have boomed at WMO since the opening of a trade counter in July to cater for growing demand for its fully traceable products.

Ordered

WMO is happy to handle any specific meat orders for Christmas and be sure to add the company's new range of Welsh condiments – sweet mint jelly, horseradish sauce, redcurrant jelly and the unusual red mustard – to your order.

A variety meat hamper costs £50, a Christmas hamper £50, a deluxe Christmas hamper £75 and a mini hamper varies from £15 to £25. Locally sourced whole Christmas turkeys on the bone can be ordered at £8.99 per kilo.

WMO held an open evening on November 11 with a butchery and cookery demonstration by Ramos Venys and Steve Griffiths when guest speaker was Derwena Davies from Wynnstay Spar, Llansantffraid.

Employing six skilled staff, WMO supplies retail outlets and award winning restaurants and hotels across Mid Wales as well as individual customers



Nerys is ready to help customers at WMO.

Advertisement feature

who order meat products online at <http://www.welshmeatonline.co.uk>

WMO has seen sales of beef burgers and mince treble since the UK's horse-meat scandal and orders for its range of Celtic Pride premium Welsh Beef and pork, Welsh Lamb and chicken products have surged ahead this year.

"Customers like to know where the meat products they are buying come from and we guarantee full traceabil-

ity," said Arwyn Watkins, WMO's managing director. "Trust, honesty and traceability are our watchwords as we take pride in supplying premium meat products direct from the farm."

"Wherever possible, our meat is bred, slaughtered, butchered and packed in Mid Wales to cut down the food miles. We also take great care to ensure that our meat products are neatly trimmed to reduce waste and are ready to cook when removed from their gas flushed pack."

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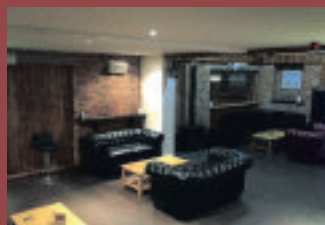
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CHRISTMAS

A hearty welcome – and a post office – at Stans



The Post Office counter in Stans at Llangollen.

STANS has been established in Llangollen for just over 18 months and in that time the convenience store and petrol station has gone from strength to strength.

Following the reintroduction of a petrol station to the town and the addition of a mini supermarket, the company now offers a Post Office counter service too.

When the town's Post Office closed in July it was relocated inside

Advertisement feature

the store instead of disappearing from the town completely.

Along with the move came three of the existing members of staff, providing continuity and familiar friendly faces for the customers.

The Faulks family had been trading in nearby St Martins since 1958, at a store which many people from Llangollen were accustomed to.

The Llangollen store provides the town and the A5 corridor with a much

needed fuel supply and a 3,000 square foot supermarket.

Whether it be the need for fuel, groceries or hot and cold food to go Stans is where staff will give you a hearty welcome.

"We have responded to local needs and are always pleased to respond to changing needs in the town," said a spokesman.

"We are pleased with the addition to the store of a Post Office."

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CHRISTMAS

Taking the stress out of cooking this Christmas

Advertisement feature

DOES your turkey squeak like a guinea pig when you chew it? Do your sprouts have no bite and even less flavour? And how are your roasties – soft, anaemic and greasy?

That'll never do. Not at Christmas. Few meals seem as important as Christmas dinner. There's a table full of hungry people to feed, and it's impossible not to feel a certain amount of pressure when putting it all together.

But whether you're cooking for two or 22, the rules stay the same. Firstly, plan ahead. Sit down and think about what you're going to cook, bearing in mind cooking times, how many hobs you have and oven space.

There's no point planning to roast five veg if you only have a tiny oven, for example.

As a rule, don't think of getting a turkey larger than 12lb. Any bigger than that and by the time it's cooked it won't be worth eating. If you need more meat than that, or want to have enough for a few days' worth of turkey sandwiches, get two birds.

If you don't fancy a whole turkey, look at getting a crown – that's just the breast – or find a recipe for Turkey Wellington. The added bonus there is that you can make it the day before and just bake it on the day.

You could always throw tradition out of the window and opt for a joint of beef instead, or a goose, or poussins all round. If you don't want turkey, don't have it!

If you are having poultry, make your gravy in advance and freeze it. (Handy recipe: soften two chopped onions, two carrots and two sticks of celery in olive oil in a large saucepan. If you have giblets, add them.



Be ready in time for Christmas.

When softened, add a little tomato puree and flour and cook for a minute, then turn up the heat, add a glass or two of red wine. Reduce until most of the liquid's disappeared then add two pints of chicken or vegetable stock. Simmer for 15 minutes, adjust the seasoning then strain into a container and freeze.)

Prep like this will help. Your family or friends might laugh at you having your meal sketched out a month in advance. Just tell them it's for their benefit.

When you've decided on your menu, work out how long everything needs to cook for and make a plan, working backwards from what time you want to eat.

When it comes to the big day, do as much chopping, peeling and prep as you can, get out all the pots, pans, roasting trays and utensils you're going to need, and – finally – clean as you go.

A tidy kitchen makes for an easy kitchen to work in, and two hours' washing up after the meal is not a suitable substitute for dessert.

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NEWS

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NEWS

in brief

More than 100 sign up to homes battle

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition opposing plans to create 10 homes near Ellesmere.

Plans have been submitted to Shropshire Council to build the homes in Hordley Road, Tetichill, sparking a 124-name petition.

The scheme, submitted by Steven Jones, involves creating four affordable homes and six open market homes.

Resident John Paul Jeffels, said: "Tetichill is not a sustainable place – it lacks facilities and services."

Documents in support of the application say there is a high demand for social rented housing in the area.

Draft business plan agreed by councillors

SHROPSHIRE councillors have agreed a draft business plan to help plug an £80 million black hole.

Cuts between 2014 and 2017 will see a \$24.8 million reduction in resource and support, £24.4 million off the adult social care budget and £12.5 million from children's services, with £18.8 saved through more commissioning of services and renegotiating contracts.

Open studio sale

THE Project Group in Oswestry has an open studio on November 27. The studio at 17a Cross Street, is open from 10am-2pm with gifts on sale.

Families fume over noise from village sports court

METAL fences around a village sports court could be made lower – because neighbours say the noise created when footballs hit them makes their lives a misery.

Complaints have been made to Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council about the noise and also about general anti-social behaviour at the sports court and in the adjoining playing fields on St Martins Road in Gobowen.

Among the list of complaints by residents are concerns about noise created by the metal fences, anti-social driving on the playing field's car park and the use of bad language by youths.

Parish councillor Paul Drury, who lives near the playing fields, said he sympathised with some of the residents' complaints.

He said some users repeatedly kicked their footballs against the fences, creating a lot of noise.

Councillor Drury said they kicked the ball hard at the fence because they did not have to worry about their ball going over the fence.

He suggested if the height of the fences were lowered to about four feet, users would have to take more care about how hard they kicked their ball. The councillor said: "They would soon stop if they had to walk miles to get their ball back."

by Iain St John

Councillor Drury said there were continued anti-social behaviour problems at the park and its community pavilion.

He said: "We are still getting lots of kids hanging about at night time."

"Nobody minds the kids playing but it is the bad language and the shouting."

"We need a better police presence. You couldn't have your mother around and sitting in the garden because of the language."

Parish clerk Penny O'Hagan said the parish council had inherited the design and choice of fencing and said the noise could be excessive.

She said contractor had been "quite shocked" how noisy it could be.

Mrs O'Hagan pointed out that work was being done to install CCTV cameras on the Pavilion, but she said the playing fields was for the community's use and more radical suggestions such as curfews would be unworkable.

Rugby club take tug of war honours



The Oswestry Rugby Club winning the third and final tug against the ironworks' Men of Iron

MEN OF Iron from the British Ironwork Centre squared up to Oswestry Rugby Club in a tug of war.

Hosted at the Aston ironworks, the two teams of 10 faced each other in a best of three tug of war to decide who would keep an iron eagle trophy crafted at the centre.

Clive Knowles, managing director at the British Ironwork Centre, said: "We were asked to create an iron eagle for the rugby team's clubhouse. We thought that rather than giving it to

them, it'd be better if we at least made them earn it. "It was like the David and Goliath story – they would've been pretty devastated if we'd won."

The teams went the whole nine yards for the event. The tug of war challenge from the 'Men of Iron' was written on a scroll, sealed with wax and brought to the Oswestry Rugby Club on a cushion. Mr Knowles said: "We felt invigorated by the first one, but we didn't manage to hold our ground." The game itself heated up in

the final round. He said: "The last pull was exceptionally dramatic with the rope sheathed in steel pipe and oil and diesel ragging, then set alight to create a burning spectacle."

Unfortunately for the rugby team, the wind was in their direction so they were hampered by smoke. The ironworkers increased their efforts, but the rugby team still managed to yield the final blow. The end result was a 3-0 win for the rugby team, and a claim to the iron eagle.

MEP vows to fight for better broadband

ANGER over broadband in rural areas came under the spotlight as a Euro MP met with campaigners.

West Midlands MEP Phil Bennion visited Shropshire on a fact-finding mission about how broadband delivery in rural areas is meeting European guidelines.

He said: "There is a growing disconnect between what I am hearing from Government and the European Commission about high speed broadband and the anger and frustration affecting residents and local community providers, especially in Shropshire."

He met with councillors and Patrick Cosgrove of the South West Shropshire and Marches Better Broadband Campaign.

Mr Bennion said: "The system for rolling out better broadband is too complex and plainly is not delivering what people need, especially in remote rural areas like south-west Shropshire."

"After winning all 44 contracts for Broadband Delivery UK, BT does have an obligation to ensure that definitive maps for their superfast broadband roll-out are available."

They must also produce a clear timetable and what level of service businesses and households can expect.

"Some counties have this information already, Shropshire does not."

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Take a stroll to find that perfect Christmas gift

WITH Christmas fast approaching and only five shopping weeks left, it's the perfect time for a two minute stroll up Church Street in Oswestry to discover one of the town's oldest gift shops.

Established in 1997, you will find The Gates Gifts nestled between Honeysuckle Wholefoods & The Oak Public House, opposite St Oswald's Church.

Home to quirky handmade products, bespoke home furnishings, quality British designs and fairly traded handicrafts, this great little gift shop offers a truly unique and inspiring collection of handpicked items.

Many of the items can be personalised or made-to-order for that extra special Christmas present.

Exclusive

As the festive season begins in earnest The Gates Gifts will be open seven days a week, and the owners are planning two late night shopping events.

The first takes place next Wednesday between 7pm and 9pm with an exclusive 10 per cent off all purchases.

The second, will be as part of Oswestry's Christmas Live event on December 6. Complimentary refreshments will be available on both evenings.

So whether you are looking for that hard-to-find secret Santa gift, or something extra special for a loved one you are sure to find your inspiration here.

With their unique made-to-order



New for Christmas 2013 Fairtrade musical instruments from South America and Africa.

Advertisement feature

gift service, and a free gift wrapping and storage service The Gates Gifts is a great place to kick-start your local Christmas shopping.

From December 1 Christmas trees & holly will be available for sale and order, all locally grown with three dif-

ferent tree varieties from the traditional Norway Spruce, to the increasingly popular non-drop Noble & Fraser Firs.

So why not take a stroll beyond Festival Square and pop in? Browsers are more than welcome, and if you can't make it to the shop you can always visit on-line at www.thegatesgifts.com

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NEWS

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Hospital trust spot for retired midwife

A RETIRED midwife has been welcomed as the 5,000th member of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Trust.

Menna Williams, from Ruthin, has been a patient of the hospital since the 1960s and signed up for membership of the Trust after seeing a note in the hospital newsletter.

Miss Williams' first visit to the hospital was for surgery on her foot in the late 1960s.

Five years later she underwent spinal surgery which was so successful she was able to reach the highest levels in her career.

She has worked as a midwife at Wrexham and went on to become a supervisor of midwifery for North Wales.

Having now retired, in the next few weeks she is due to have a knee replacement at the hospital, and when she attended for her pre-operative assessment this week, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Ruth Tyrrell, associate human resources director for the Foundation Trust.

"I was very surprised to be given flowers by the hospital, feeling it should be the other way around," she said. "I joined thinking I would be able to give something back."

For more information visit www.rjah.nhs.uk or call (01691) 404394.

Sorry to wake you, we were after the baddies, policeman tweets

CARING police officers took to Twitter to apologise for waking residents up as they tracked two suspects during an early-morning search through a town.

Officers on foot, backed up by the West Mercia Police Force helicopter, spent much of the early hours of last Thursday looking for suspects who had evaded police after abandoning a vehicle.

Sergeant Lee Johnson took to social media to keep residents up to date with the hunt and reassure them about the reason the helicopter was in the sky.

He said in his Twitter messages that after the vehicle "made off" from officers it was abandoned in Oswestry and officers were searching on foot.

And in a series of tweets to followers later he said officers were continuing to look for the suspects who had run into gardens in the town.

He said: "Apologies to those woken by the police helicopter in the early hours.

"You now know we have resources in Oswestry to keep you safe.

Invaluable

"My job is very simple, it's about keeping bad people away from the good people. And that's what we've done early hours.

"The helicopter is an invaluable tool in the police armoury. Once again apologies."

Sergeant Scott Barnes, who is also based in Oswestry, said the hunt was still carrying on for the two suspects and said the force was increasingly turning to social media to keep residents updated about what is going on.

Sgt Barnes said: "Two suspects abandoned a vehicle and made off from officers.

"A search was conducted in the town, around the Gittin Street area, I believe, and the helicopter was called in.

"Social media such as Twitter is a useful tool for us. It can get information out quickly and help in our investigations."

One week left to give views on power line

RESIDENTS have just a week left to give their opinion on plans to build a 33-mile power line in the Shropshire and Mid Wales countryside before consultation closes.

National Grid's plans sparked anger with campaigners who say the cable, most of which is likely to be overhead on pylons, will ruin the countryside and decimate tourism.

The line is needed to carry power generated by proposed windfarms in Mid Wales from a substation at Cefn Coch near Llanfair Caereinion to the national power network at Lower Frankton near Oswestry.

The company's public consultation scheme has staged a series of drop-in sessions in communities which will be affected.

The drop-ins concluded in West Felton, people who have not yet given their opinion have only until November 29 to do so.

Plan for cinema welcomed



Chas Nicholson, secretary of the Oswestry Regal Project outside the old Regal Cinema at the junction of English Walls, Salop Road and Leg Street. Picture: Ian Sheppard.

CAMPAIGNERS behind plans to transform a former cinema into a new entertainment venue have spoken of their delight after the project was included in a key document that sets out how a town should develop in the future.

A steering group has been set up to take the £500,000 scheme for Oswestry's former Regal Cinema in Leg Street forward.

It comes after the Oswestry 2020

vision town plan stated the proposals for the Regal could help its key strategy of developing a multi purpose arts, theatre and performance venue.

Members said it was important they had gained official recognition for the importance of the project.

Chas Nicholson, from the steering group, said: "I think we are all highly delighted. It is formal and official recognition of the project."

Charity is to benefit from book of tycoon

THE autobiography of business tycoon Malcolm Walker, who made a fortune after launching the first Iceland store in Oswestry in 1970, will raise funds for Alzheimer's Research UK, it has been announced.

Mr Walker launched his autobiography, entitled *Best Served Cold, the Rise, Fall and Rise Again of Malcolm Walker*, this week.

Proceeds from the book will be donated to Alzheimer's Research UK, the UK's leading dementia research charity, through the Iceland Foods Charitable Foundation.

Publication of the book follows a recent three-part BBC2 documentary, *Iceland Foods: Life in the Freezer Cabinet*, about the frozen food supermarket chain and its tireless boss.

The autobiography tells the dramatic story of the Yorkshire-born entrepreneur's life in business.

Mr Walker co-founded Iceland Foods in 1970 with just £30 and was its chairman and chief executive through 30 years of sales growth.

He left Iceland after a profit warning in early 2001 before making a spectacular comeback four years later, transforming the company's performance.

Iceland today has more than 800 stores nationwide and 25,000 employees.

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Market Street, Llanfyllin £390 PCM £550 Deposit

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Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.
Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating F

Oswestry Town Centre £365 PCM £550 Deposit

Newly refurbished apartment with bedroom, kitchen, living room, bathroom, electric heating.
Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.
Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating TBC

Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry £400 PCM £600 Deposit

End terrace cottage, the accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 2 bedrooms, small garden, parking.
Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.
Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating E

Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry £410 PCM £600 Deposit

Mid-terraced cottage with two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, kitchen, sitting room, living room, gardens and parking.
Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.
Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating E

Oaklands Road, Chirk Bank £550 PCM £650 Deposit

A semi detached property with a pretty garden, three bedrooms and family bathroom, sitting room with log burner, kitchen and parking.
Standard tenant application fees are £150 plus VAT, plus bank status enquiry fee will be charged separately by the bank.
Please call 01691 655334.

EPC rating C



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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Five-bed executive home offers space and comfort

A spacious home on an executive estate is on the market with JJ Dell & Co.

Built in 2006, number 18 Upper Well Close, Oswestry, is within walking distance of the town centre and is priced at £325,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a reception hall, cloakroom, dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility/rear entrance hall, five bedrooms and three bathrooms.

In more detail the lounge has a fireplace with

marble hearth, gas coal effect fire and patio doors to the rear garden.

The kitchen includes a dishwasher, fridge and freezer, electric induction hob, double oven and a ceramic tiled floor, as does the utility/rear entrance hall.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, two ensuite, and a family bathroom.

Two further bedrooms and a bathroom are found on the second floor.

The house is set in a slightly elevated corner plot with a double width driveway leading to a detached double garage.

The good-sized enclosed rear garden is laid to lawn with flowerbeds, a raised vegetable garden, soft fruit and vines, and two patios.

The property is on the market at a guide price of £325,000. For further information or to arrange a viewing, contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Rural property with great views set in half an acre

On the market with Town & Country, Silverdale House, Springbank Close, is a detached house on a good-sized half acre plot with fantastic country views and potential for extending.

Located on the edge of the popular village of Trefonen, this property is ideally situated for those wanting a rural retreat without being too far from the village centre and just three miles from Oswestry. Accommodation comprises a lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room, three bedrooms, bathroom, large gardens and two further outbuildings.

The property is priced at £325,000. Call the agents on 01691 679631 to view.



Terraced cottage in quiet village is available to rent

A mid-terrace cottage situated in a quiet village location close to Oswestry is available to rent through Roger Parry & Partners at £400 pcm.

The accommodation at 2 Hill View Cottages, Maesbury Marsh, comprises an entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen, utility room, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms, small garden, parking and oil-fired central heating. The property also has partial double glazing.

Contact Roger Parry & Partners on 01691 655334 or log on to the website www.rogerparry.net to find out more.



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Bryn Cottage, Llwynmawr, Glyn Ceiriog

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Parc Llwyfen, Llanymynech

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Oak Drive, Oswestry

Price: £174,950

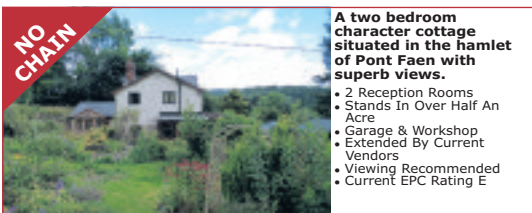
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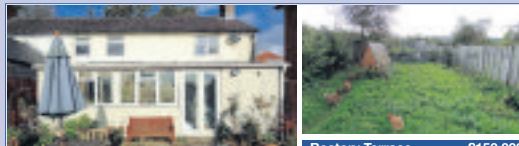
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- 2 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Detached garage block with adjoining study and low maintenance gardens
- Gas fired central heating and ample off-road parking. EPC Rating D

**NEW****Rectory Terrace
Welsh Frankton****£150,000**

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating E

**NEW - SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT****Middleton Road
Oswestry****£189,995**

- A well appointed, deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- The property was constructed approximately 8 years ago
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite, 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Good size gardens with patio and slate covered seating area to rear
- A single garage and off-road parking
- Double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating C

**Trinity Close
Gobowen****£144,995**

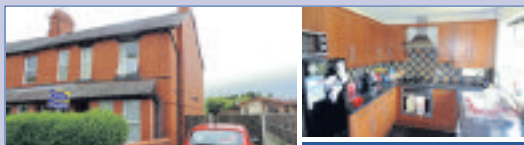
- A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Cloakroom, modern Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms (Master Ensuite), 2 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Private rear garden with a decked area and raised patio and off road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating throughout. EPC Rating C

**Hampton Close
Oswestry****£269,995**

- An immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Property
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Dining Room
- Master Bedroom with En-suite, 2 Further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- 4 large Beds, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm. EPC Rating F
- Landscaped gardens with large seating area, single garage & carport
- uPVC double and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

**Meadow Way
Gobowen****£159,995**

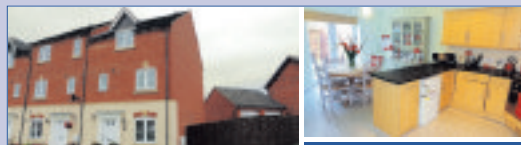
- A spacious 4 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility, Cloaks & Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom, single garage & driveway
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

**NO CHAIN****Berwyn Villas
Oswestry****£99,995**

- A well presented end-of-terrace cottage style property
- Oak stripped flooring to the hall, lounge and dining room
- Entrance Hall, Through Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen
- 2 Excellent Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Off-street parking and good size south facing rear garden
- Double glazing gas fired central heating EPC Rating E

**NEW PRICE****Morda
Oswestry****£450,000**

- A substantial Double fronted Georgian style property retains a host of original features, has been extensively modernised by the current owners
- Recently fitted Kitchen, Drawing Rm, Study, Sun Rm, Utility Rm, Cellars, 4 large Beds, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm. EPC Rating F
- Substantial stone/brick built outbuildings which could be used for a host of future uses (subject to planning consents). Further brick built Building is currently used as a Games Rm
- Standing in an elevated position overlooking landscaped gardens with views, large patio, extends to approx 0.72 acre (0.29 ha)

**NEW PRICE****Barber Close
Oswestry****£174,995**

- A well appointed and deceptively spacious 4/5 Bedroom, 3 Storey Townhouse
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room
- Utility Room, Study/Bedroom 5, Lounge
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom with 2 further large Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- A paved patio area to the rear and a lawned garden to the side
- Single garage and driveway, Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating B

December 5

Collective Property Auction

Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton, Oswestry, 2.00pm

Entries are now being invited for our Property Auction in March 2014
For more information please call any of our offices.

SOLD

WREXHAM Acton **LOT 1 Guide Price Over £90,000**

AUCTION

- Scope for modernisation
- Semi-detached in a cul-de-sac
- Comprises three bedrooms, kitchen, lounge/dining room and spacious bathroom
- Sunroom and conservatory
- Paved rear garden for easy maintenance

WREXHAM Rhostyllen **LOT 2 Guide Price £5,000**

AUCTION

A rare opportunity to purchase a well located parcel of mixed woodland adjoining the popular Esless Park residential development. The woodland extends to around 1.125 hectares (approximately 2.77 acres).

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern **LOT 3 Guide Price Over £200,000**

AUCTION

- Impressive oak-clad 'converted barn' style residence
- Picturesque rural location
- On the banks of the River Ceirlog
- Comprises 2 separate dwellings
- Ground floor garaging with potential for further residential use subject to the necessary planning consents
- EPC rating G and D

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern **LOT 4 Guide Price £65,000 to £75,000**

AUCTION

- Located in the picturesque Ceirlog Valley
- Part of a Conversion of the Former Mill
- Kitchen, Living Room, One Bedroom, Shower Room
- Courtyard and parking space for one vehicle
- EPC Rating 'G'

Nr LLANGOLLEN Dolywern **LOT 5 Guide Price £75,000-£85,000**

AUCTION

- Spacious One Bedroom Apartment
- Located in the Ceirlog Valley
- Part of a Conversion of the Former Mill
- Entrance Hall, Open Plan Kitchen/Living/Dining Room
- One Bedroom, Shower Room
- Courtyard and parking space for one vehicle
- EPC Rating 'E'

WREXHAM Coedpoeth **LOT 6 Guide Price Over £50,000**

AUCTION

A stone-built semi-detached village property with living room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. The accommodation has planning permission for works of a two storey extension including the provision of a car port. The accommodation as existing has double glazing and gas fired central heating.

WREXHAM Coedpoeth **LOT 7 Guide Price £35,000-£45,000**

AUCTION

A detached stone built former chapel having planning permission for demolition and replacement upon the site with a brand new four bedroom detached dwelling. The planning consent was granted by Wrexham County Council October 2013. Alternatively the property may be retained for a variety of potential uses.

WREXHAM Brymbo **LOT 8 Guide Price Over £120,000**

AUCTION

- Detached Four Bed Property
- Large Workshop and Garage to ground floor
- Timber Outbuilding
- Ample Parking and Car port
- Viewing Recommended
- Energy Rating E

2014 Property Auctions

27 March, 19 June, 18 September & 11 December

Welcome to our December Property Auction.

Entries are now being invited for the first sale of 2014 to be held on the 27th March

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struttandparker.com**STRUTT & PARKER****Newtown | Powys****Guide price £895,000****Newtown 3 miles | Abermule 4 miles**

A Grade II Listed property, two semi-detached cottages and land set in the delightful Highgate Valley
 3 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Study | Utility room
 Cloakroom | Cellar | 5 En-suite bedrooms | Attic rooms | 2 Cottages
 Garage | Gardens | Paddock extending to 2.71 acres | EPC rating D

Shrewsbury 01743 284200 kevin.boulton@struttandparker.com**Llanfechain | Powys**

A beautiful, Grade II listed Tudor farmhouse together with a cottage, outbuildings, grounds and panoramic views
 2 Reception rooms | Kitchen | Study | Boot room | 3 Bedrooms
 2 Bathrooms | Dressing room | 2 Bedroom cottage | Stable block
 Tack room | Garage | Tennis court | Gardens | Paddock | JSA Balfours

Guide price £650,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200

Llanbrynmair | Powys

A delightful stone house with a 2 bedroom cottage and mature gardens
 4 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Conservatory
 4 Bedrooms, 1 ensuite | Family bathroom | Utility outbuilding
 Garage | Extensive sheds | Mature gardens | 2 Bedroom cottage
 About 2.1 acres | EPC ratings: House - G, Cottage - F

Guide price £435,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200

Treflach | Oswestry

A bespoke oak-framed property offering fantastic character and comfortable family accommodation
 2 Reception rooms | Utility room | Kitchen/breakfast room
 4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | Study | Double garage | Gardens
 Parking | EPC rating C

Guide price £415,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200

Montgomery | Shropshire

A five bedroom family home in attractive gardens situated within the picturesque and historical town of Montgomery
 4 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room
 2 Cloakrooms | 5 Bedrooms, 1 ensuite | Family bathroom
 Double garage and parking | Garden | EPC rating E

Guide price £395,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200

Nr Aberystwyth | Powys

A unique timber property in an idyllic location between the sea and mountains
 2 Reception rooms | Kitchen | Boot room | Cloakroom
 4 Bedrooms, 1 ensuite | Bathroom | Balcony | Double garage
 Gardens | EPC rating E | About 1.5 acres

Guide price £310,000

Shrewsbury 01743 284200

Treflach | Oswestry

A detached stone cottage situated in the picturesque village of Treflach
 2 Reception rooms | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility | Cloakroom
 3 Bedrooms | Family bathroom | Garden | Parking

Guide price £225,000

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Classified Ads

deaths

DAVIES

Gordon Owen

Died peacefully on November 9, 2013, aged 88 years, after a brief illness. Devoted Husband of the late Nesta, much loved by his Son Jonathan and Daughter-in-law Sally and proud Grandfather of Tim, Robert and Jenny. He will be greatly missed.

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Westbury, on Friday, November 22, at 3.15pm.

No flowers please but donations, if desired, to St Mary's Church.

All inquiries please to
01743 344646

DOWLEY

Raymond George

Ex Royal Navy and Ex British Telecom.

Passed away peacefully at Hatton Court Nursing Home, Telford, on November 14, 2013, aged 90 years.

A beloved Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather, he will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Cemetery Chapel, Longden Road, on Thursday, November 28, 2013, at 2pm, followed by Interment.

Family flowers only, donations if wished to Shrewsbury MENCAP.

All inquiries please to
01743 344646.



ROMEO

Lilian Margaret

Of Cleobury Mortimer.

Passed away peacefully on November 8, 2013, aged 84 years.

Beloved Wife of the late Pasquale Romeo. An adored Mum of twelve, a cherished Nan and Great-Nan and special Mother-in-law and Sister.

Loved and dearly missed by all her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on Wednesday, November 20, at 12 noon, followed by Burial in Cleobury Mortimer Cemetery.

Flowers welcome.

Donations kindly received in Lilian's memory, in lieu of flowers, will be divided between Cleobury Mortimer Medical Practice and The District Nursing Fund (Ludlow).

All inquiries please to

VICTORIA ALLEN
FUNERAL SERVICES

8 Charlton Rise

Ludlow

SY8 1ND

01584 879035.

FAULKNER

Olwen
nee Jones

Of Radbrook Green, Shrewsbury. Passed away on November 12, 2013, aged 92 years. Deeply loved Mother of Helen and Adrian, Mother-in-law of John and Elaine, Grandmother of Ramon and Gareth.

Private Family Cremation followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Shrewsbury United Reformed Church, Coleham Head, Shrewsbury, SY3 7BJ on Monday, November 25, at 1.45pm. Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Lingen Davies Cancer Relief Fund.

All inquiries please to
01743 344646.

in memoriam



CANAVAN

Peter

November 22.

A precious Son and Brother.

Forever close, never apart, always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Love and God bless.

Devoted Mum, Sisters Sheila and Eileen and Families.

X X X



HAYWARD

Iris

November 21, 1996.

We miss you so, no words can say, we think of you every day.

Wife, Mother, Nan and Friend, forever loved until life's end.

From Ted and all your loving Family. X X X



JONES

Ron

Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad

Seventeen years today my love since you were by my side.

Gone from our lives but never our hearts.

Love forever.

M and Family. X X X

acknowledgements



EVANS

Noel

Ann, Paul, Carol, Philip and Jason would like to thank all Family, Friends and Neighbours for their sympathy and kind words and cards and condolences received at this sad time. Also for their attendance at Noel's Funeral.

Thank you all for your generous donations of £200 for The Alzheimer's Society and Cancer Research.

We would also like to thank all at Pughs Funeral Directors and the Minister Ken Chipendale for their help and support.



LAKELIN

Jennifer Jane

John, and Jennifer's Sister Margaret would like to express their sincere thanks to all Family and Friends in Pontesbury and surrounding area for their messages of sympathy and attendance at Jenny's Funeral.

Special thanks to Mr. Geoff Manley for his wonderful tribute and to the Revs. Shirley Small and Margaret Jones of St. George's Church in Pontesbury for their support throughout.

The Family also wish to thank everyone for their generous donations in memory of Jenny which will be shared between The Lingen Davies Cancer Appeal (£1800) and St. George's Church.

items for sale

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*Source: ABC



The Keys Group, currently has residential provisions based in the Shropshire/ Shrewsbury/ Telford area. We are currently recruiting:

Residential Care Workers (Ref 780)

(Full Time / Part Time / Bank/ Night Work)

No experience necessary, however, you must be committed to looking after children and young people in a residential setting. Due to the location of the homes a full driving licence or access to transport is required

Residential Care Workers (Ref 814)

(Full Time / Part Time / Bank/ Night Work)

Provide day to day care requirements and daily living plan. Contribute to outdoor activity sessions to engage Young People and promote their self esteem.

We complete a range of activities with the children such as canoeing, mountain climbing and camping so you need to want to partake in all of these activities. Due to the location of the homes a full driving licence or access to transport is required

Key Workers (Ref 811)

(Zero hour contract)

No previous experience is required. To deliver a supported living package based upon structured key work sessions to vulnerable young people aged 16 - 18. These sessions will aim to promote the life skills of young people and support their transition into adulthood. You will be employed on a zero hour contract. Actual hours of work are determined by young people in residence and will include evenings, weekends and sleep-in.

In return we offer a competitive salary with an excellent benefits package with ongoing training and development.

To apply or for more information, download an application form from <http://www.keyschildcare.co.uk/careers>, contact the recruitment hotline on: **0800 1692855** or E-mail: zoeforsythe@bettercare.co.uk

Closing date: 4pm 29th November 2013

Please note that successful applicants will be required to complete an enhanced DBS Disclosure Application.

Keys Group is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children and Young People and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Keys Childcare is an Equal Opportunity Employer and positively welcomes applications from ethnic minority groups who are under-represented in our service.

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For an application pack please send your CV and covering letter by email to Nicky Lloyd, nicky@provq.com If you would like to discuss the position further call Stuart Jones 07500 786701 Closing date midday Monday 2nd December 2013

ProVQ is committed to safeguarding, promoting the welfare of our learners and we expect our staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a DBS check.

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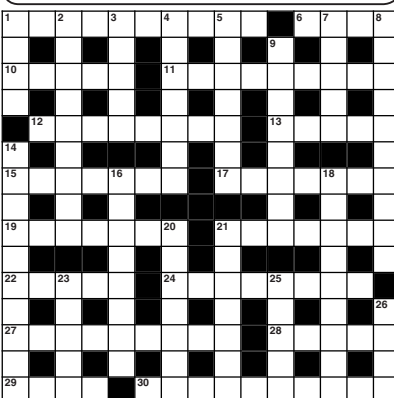
Please send your CV to:

Darren Counsell,
West Pennine Trucks Ltd
Unit 19, Mile Oak Industrial Estate,
Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8HA
Tel: 01691 671500

Email: darren.counsell@scania.com



CROSSWORD



Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS DOWN

- State of Carolina if reformed (10)
- Issue a period return (4)
- Vegetable highly thought of in France (5)
- A bad forecast (9)
- First-class fare for Olympians (8)
- It is in fact a long claw (5)
- Toils on, making ointments (7)
- The cause of many a painful admission (7)
- Mother repeatedly passes round the hat for an Asian teacher (7)
- Horseman may give an ace turn (7)
- New book (5)
- Part of New York set aside perhaps (4,4)
- It enables one to take the long view (9)
- He tangles with cop - that will mean time (5)
- An onlooker (4)
- They sell papers in several quarters and in streets (10)
- What must be paid for the company to get a good man (4)
- Union with no money interest in tennis perhaps (4,5)
- Theatrical part you once went in for (5)
- Changes roles? (7)
- Just a moment (7)
- Perfect fashion figure? (5)
- Means of travel by land and sea (5,5)
- The actors have to press hard (4-4)
- Gets rid of in sale time perhaps (10)
- Be superior to other pupils? (8)
- Such is life on the rolling deep! (2,3,4)
- Possibly name one kind of plant (7)
- Lettuce goes down for pets (7)
- Sinuous slave dance (5)
- We set out without a trace of bitterness (5)
- Huts may be built in this way (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Arrays, 4 Appoints, 9 Legume, 10 Main line, 12 Cash register, 13 Snobs, 14 Vega, 17 Trendsetters, 20 Green fingers, 23 Snub, 24 Stars, 25 So-so, 28 Redstart, 29 Recess, 30 Scrapped, 31 United.
Down: 1 Allocate, 3 Yarns, 5 Play with fire, 6 Owens, 7 Nailed, 8 Seesaw, 11 Interest-free, 15 Adorn, 16 Crane, 18 Redolent, 19 Espoused, 21 Usurps, 22 Murder, 26 Stop, 27 Mean.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
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 all for your support in 2013
 and look forward to seeing
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SPOTLIGHT ON REDNAL

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The entrance to Rednal Industrial Estate.

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The remote location made it safe from enemy bombardment and a good place to send foreign pilots for training.

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Pilots would arrive at Rednal, some-

Advertisement feature

times having escaped from occupied continental Europe, get trained up and be sent on to places like Biggin Hill.

Today Rednal Industrial Estate is home to an ever growing number of diverse businesses, and activities could not be further away from those terrifying days of World War II.

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SPOTLIGHT ON REDNAL**Specialist scooter shop is opened at skatepark**

Youngsters enjoying themselves at The Academy Skatepark.

THERE'S more than ever on offer at The Academy Skatepark at Rednal Industrial Estate near Oswestry following the opening of a new specialist scooter shop.

The park design accommodates Skateboarding, BMX, Blades and Scooters, and incorporates a varied yet flowing set-up for all levels of experience.

Equipment is available for hire and the shop stocks everything you will ever need to take part.

And now, with Christmas in mind, the owners have opened a new specialist scooter shop and are the only local stockists of MGP and Blunt scooters.

Advertisement feature

There's an excellent range of Dirt Scooters and Pro Scooters in the new shop and The Academy guarantee to match any on-line prices.

Custom set-ups are available for enthusiasts and the shop stocks a wide range of accessories including wheels, bars and stunt nuts.

There's also a range of personalised hoodies and T-shirts.

All users under 16 years old must wear a helmet at all times whilst in the skatepark and the owners recommend that knee and elbow pads are worn too. Anyone of six years and upwards can

ride or skate in the park as long as they can prove their proficiency and instructors are on hand to get them up to that level quickly. Some areas of the park are easier than others to encourage improvers to join in.

All children aged under 16 must provide a completed consent form when they first visit the park. Forms can be completed on arrival.

You can keep up to date with all the goings on at the skatepark on-line at <http://academyskatepark.co.uk> or look out for monthly skate and scooter jams by following on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/AcademySkatepark?fref=ts>

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Karting**LaSer****paintball****SPOTLIGHT ON REDNAL**

Karting firm bosses to open new clubhouse



All kitted out and ready for action at Rednal Karting.

THE owners of Rednal Karting have announced the opening of new clubhouse facilities on the Rednal estate.

"We are pleased to announce that Rednal Karting now has fantastic new clubhouse facilities," said a spokesman.

"Those who haven't visited us recently will be very pleasantly surprised to see a new changing area, briefing room, café facilities and much more.

"Our 1000m challenging outdoor track allows each driver to experience wheel-to-wheel racing at every level

Advertisement feature

whether during a Grand Prix or the Rednal Karting experience in our Honda Powered 270cc Biz Karts capable of up to 90mph."

Slower karts are provided for the kids.

All your equipment is included; race suits, helmets and gloves, safety briefing as well as kart instruction from very experienced members of staff including a former national champion.

Live timing of your event is provided, lap time analysis printouts, trophies and podium presentations are

available. If you want to make more of your day at Rednal why not add half a day Paintballing at the arena next door located on the site of an old WW2 Control Tower? Or for those of you not brave enough for Paintball there is a great outdoor Laser facility which is totally non-contact.

Rednal Karting cater for everyone young and old from eight years including corporate events, private parties, small groups, stag & hen parties and individuals with events from £15 upwards (£10 for the laser).

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NEWS

01691 668094

Minister steps in to school lunch row

A TOP Welsh minister has stepped into the row over school dinners in Powys claiming "common sense" is needed when interpreting guidance on serving sizes.

Powys County Council came under fire last month when a school governor and Montgomeryshire AM warned children in the county were going home hungry because children aged between three and 11 are given the same meals.

The council said it is following Welsh Assembly guidance – but now Huw Lewis, Welsh Education Minister, says the guidelines are flexible and said councils and schools can exercise their own common sense.

Mr George brought the matter up with the minister in the Welsh Assembly.

Mr Lewis told Mr George that he was satisfied that there was enough flexibility in Government guidance as it only provided "suggested portion sizes" to cater for nutritional requirements.

Sponsor festival

A RANGE of sponsorship packages are available for local companies keen to align their brand or business with Oswestry LitFest events and performers.

Contact the festival's marketing partner, The Jools Payne Partnership.

English Heritage chiefs to meet council over hill fort

BOSSES at English Heritage will visit Oswestry next month to give their views on controversial plans to build homes near the foot of the town's ancient hill fort.

The group did not attend a public consultation day last month, frustrating campaigners who see their input as vital to a decision on how Oswestry Town Council should respond to the housing proposals.

The authority said today English Heritage would attend talks with councillors on December 5 where the controversy will be further explored.

by Graham Breeze

Protection for war memorials

WAR memorials in the Oswestry area could soon be given listed status – granting them protection as the country prepares to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Culture secretary Maria Miller said English Heritage intends to list up to 500 war memorials a year over the next five years and wants people to nominate a memorial.

The move has been welcomed by Clive Blakeway, chairman of the Shropshire War Memorials Association, who said: "It is tremendous news as there are so many stunning examples of war memorials in towns and villages across Shropshire and I welcome Mrs Miller's announcement."

"War memorials are the focal point of many towns and villages and this will ensure they are protected for generations to come and I would highly recommend people nominate their local memorial."

Nominate a memorial at www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/first-world-war-home-front/remembrance

Mayor Chris Schofield said the talks next month would help the council form a view on the plans, which have been put forward as potential building sites as part of Shropshire Council's far-reaching SAMDev development strategy.

He said: "English Heritage will be coming to talk to us and give us their advice and guidance. They are the guardians of the area and they have the expertise so we are keen to hear what they have to say."

"We will be listening to their advice and then making our decision."

Landmark

"They were not able to attend the meeting we held so I thought it was only right and proper to invite them along and ask them for their input. What they say will help us make a decision."

Councillor Schofield said he still supported the council's original view that nothing should be built in the area which detracts from the setting of the landmark.

Although the public consultation on the SAMDev plan has now closed, the Town Council was given further time so councillors could examine the issues in greater detail before giving the authority's view.

More than 6,000 people have objected to plans to build 188 homes near the hillfort.

The plans would see homes built near the foot of the hill, which is rumoured to be the birthplace of King Arthur's wife, Guinevere, and is protected by English Heritage.

Monkey business at market



Oswestry Mayor Chris Schofield takes a look at the new chimps.

AN UNUSUAL form of monkey business has broken out at an indoor market after two chimps took up residence as part of a unique safari trail.

The British Ironwork Centre has joined forces with stallholders to place the chimps inside Oswestry market.

The animals are the latest addition to Oswestry's safari trail which has seen the British Ironwork Centre donate and install more than 30 sculptures in key points

around the town to create an unusual tourist attraction. The chimps will help the market celebrate 50 years of trading in the Powis Hall on Bailey Head.

The scheme is a national initiative looking at raising the profile of markets and offering business start-up opportunities.

Town mayor Chris Schofield said: "Anything that creates interest, discussion and pushes footfall to our markets has to be good news."

Rat find leads to temporary closure

AN award-winning curry house on the Powys/Shropshire border was closed for 24 hours when evidence of rats was found.

Bengal Spices in Ashfield House, Llanymynech, which was named Welsh Curry House of the Year in 2013, was closed to allow Powys County Council's environmental health team to investigate.

The council said it received a report from a member of the public and an investigation was carried out on November 6 and evidence of rat activity was found.

Lee Evans, spokesman for Powys County Council, said the restaurant was closed voluntarily and re-opened the following Friday night.

He added: "We received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the possible presence of rats at Bengal Spices in Llanymynech."

"Staff from our food safety team carried out an inspection of the premises and during the inspection, found evidence of rat activity. This was brought immediately to the attention of the business operator, who voluntarily closed the premises to rectify the situation."

"Our food safety team worked closely with business operator in resolving this matter and the premises reopened for business on Friday night."

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Supplies company gets new chairman



Jim McCarthy

THE chief executive of Poundland has become the new non-executive chairman of Llanstiffraed-based agricultural supplies and retail group Wynnstey.

Jim McCarthy is already a non-executive director and vice-chairman of the group, joining the board in July 2011 and becoming vice-chairman in April 2012.

He takes over the role of chairman from Gareth Owen, who died this summer. Wynnstey chief executive Ken Greetham said: "We are delighted that Jim is becoming chairman of the board of Wynnstey."

"The company has benefited from his significant commercial and management experience since he joined the board in July 2011 and he will make an excellent successor to Gareth Owen, who was a much respected colleague."

Young Archie joins market family's generation game

WHEN Archie Edwards spent part of his half term helping out on his family's fruit and veg stall at Oswestry market, he was following in the footsteps of, not only his dad, but also his grandad and his great grandad.

The 11-year-old became the fourth generation of Edwards to "work" on the stall at the Bailey Head open air market.

And he said that although it had been cold he had enjoyed meeting the customers.

"I also spent time packaging the eggs and netting the oranges," Archie said.

by **Graham Breeze**

Three awards for disabled access

THREE organisations have won awards for the way they have improved disabled access.

The Oswestry & District Access Group gave Boots, Derwen College and St Oswald's Church awards at a ceremony in the Oswestry Memorial Hall for their work this year to make their buildings more accessible to people with disabilities.

Group chair Angela Bright said: "Each year we award businesses or any establishment that have really pulled out all the stops with access to their premises."

"Boots altered the slope at their entrance and installed automatic doors. The parish church is now fully accessible, and Derwen College have put a lot of support into the access group."

The access group has been run by volunteers for more than 20 years. It will hold a coffee morning and raffle in aid of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, at the Oswestry Memorial Hall on November 26, from 10am to noon.

"I have enjoyed it even though it was a pretty cold day."

The stall dates back to 1957, started by Archie's great grandad Albert Edwards.

Archie's father Jason Edwards said: "My grandad was a window cleaner but had to give it up when he broke his back in a fall."

"To help him out his cousin, Peter Wilson, who already had a stall on the market, gave him a bag of bananas to sell on the market and told him to see how he got on."

Shop

That carried on for a few weeks with different fruit and veg, until he got himself a stall. The Wilsons went on to open a fruit shop and grandad established the stall with my dad, Peter and his sister, Annie, then taking over.

"I have been on the market stall since I was a baby. Apparently my parents would open a box of fruit and when it was empty would line it with something warm and put me in it under the stall to sleep!"

Mr Edwards now runs the stall with his brother Terry. "We used to have stalls on five markets, but we now only do the Oswestry market because it's our local market."

"We now concentrate on wholesale fruit and veg, selling to schools, restaurants and other outlets."

He said it would be entirely up to his son whether he wanted to follow in his footsteps and join the family business.



Archie Edwards, the fourth generation of the Edwards family to serve customers on the family fruit and veg stall at Oswestry market with his dad, Jason.

Pharmacy offers aid on sport injuries

VISITING a pharmacy for treatment for minor sports injuries could ease the pressure on doctors and minor injuries clinics, an Oswestry pharmacist has said.

John Gentle, superintendent pharmacist at The Pharmacy at Caxton, said: "We get a number of people coming into our pharmacy after they have hurt themselves playing sport."

"Often they need something simple such as ibuprofen-type medication to help ease any aches and swelling or a bandage to provide support. If we think that they need to see a doctor then we will give that advice."

For Tracey Royle, pharmacy technician at Caxton, avoiding sports injuries is something she is keen to do as she celebrates playing hockey and netball for 20 years.

The mother-of-one, of Llanyrnnech, is manager of the Oswestry Ladies Hockey Team, playing in the Cheshire league. She also plays netball for a team sponsored by Oswestry firm DPH in the Oswestry and District League.

She said: "The main types of injury that I see during hockey are astro turf burns, bruises, sprained ankles and occasionally people are hit by the ball."

Anyone who wants advice can go to the pharmacy or call (01691) 653033.

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(L-R) Fiona Phillips with Timothy Morris, Carolyn Farmer and Amanda Morris

"A positive and homely environment in a care home is really determined by the aesthetics of the building as well as the quality of care provision itself", says Interior Design Specialist for Morris Care, Amanda Morris.

Having studied at Stirling University, the leading authority on dementia research, Amanda has made it her mission to utilise a pioneering new approach to interior design at Cedar Court, a new specialist care home in Audlem by quality care providers, Morris Care.

Commended by journalist, broadcaster and campaigner for dementia care, Fiona Phillips, the home combines specialist layouts with an appreciation for the challenges of caring.



As described by Amanda: "We know design has such a positive effect for people living with dementia and this, matched by the staff's commitment to providing high quality care, really does make Cedar Court a unique place to be. Residents can come and go as they please, spend time with our carers or make a cup of tea with others."

"The home provides specialist visual and sensory aspects including non-reflective glass, memory rooms and colour-coded doors throughout the home, to help those living with dementia feel safe and secure in their home. This is then coupled by an evolutionary approach to caring, which is headed by our Home Manager, Carolyn Farmer."

"Residents are helped to feel reassured in their own environment and encouraged to decide their own daily routines as they would in their own homes."

For more information call 01270 812 606
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NOSTALGIA & NEWS

01691 668094

Response times for 999 medics fail target

AMBULANCE response times to the most urgent cases in Wales failed to meet a target for the 16th month in a row.

Figures for September show that 62.9 per cent of ambulances responding to Category A calls arrived within the eight minute target. The aim is 65 per cent.

In Powys, the figures were lower, with only 60.5 per cent of ambulances arriving within eight minutes.

However, the figure in Mid Wales is often lower than average due to the fact it is a rural area.

The figure in August was 61.8 per cent nationwide and 58.6 per cent in Powys. Despite not hitting the target, the Powys figure was the highest the Welsh Ambulance Service has recorded in the county since September 2012 and the service said it is showing signs of "continuous improvement."

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesman said: "September was a busy month for us, with the service taking 33,677 emergency calls, with more than a third of these - 13,200 calls - being of the most serious in nature. We have introduced a number of measures to improve our responsiveness and it is encouraging to see that we are now showing signs of continuous improvement."

Packet boat's final days by side of county canal

by Toby Neal

FORLORN and high and dry, the Duchess Countess, last of the canal packet boats, ended its days at Welsh Frankton in the 1950s.

And it was there that it was photographed by a keen amateur photographer, the late Stan Turner of Shrewsbury.

"She was named after Elizabeth, the wife of the Marquess of Stafford, who was a Countess in her own right, and thus held both titles of Duchess and Countess," Stan recalled.

"When this picture was taken in 1953 the boat was well past her century and a half. She originally conveyed passengers on the Bridgewater Canal, between Stockton Quay and Manchester, but in the late 1930s was acquired by an old boatman and provided a summer houseboat for him on the Shropshire Union (now Llangollen) Canal, at Welsh Frankton.

"But the old boat developed a bad leak and was beached. In spite of efforts to save her for preservation she was abandoned to her fate and broken up in 1956."

We shall never see her like again - or shall we?

There is a Duchess Countess Trust which has the aim of building a replica of the Duchess Countess.

According to its website the vessel was 72ft long and was the last horse-drawn packet boat in regular service on British canals.

"The Duchess Countess was sunk for a number of years until rescued by a Mr H Mackey, a retired seaman, who lifted and fitted her out as a retirement home. She



The Duchess Countess in her last days at Welsh Frankton.

was now more than 130 years old," says the website.

"Mr Mackey towed the former passenger boat by mule along the Shropshire Union Canal and moored at Welsh Frankton, where he became a recluse."

During the summer of 1945 she was recorded as having been moored half way up the Frankton Locks, outside Beech's Dry Dock, and in the late summer of 1945 or early spring of 1946 she worked her way up the Frankton Locks and must have been the



In better days, under tow.

last boat to have done so. She was recorded to have been out of the water and on the far bank of the Llangollen Canal by the summer of 1946.

Measurements

"The Curator of British Transport Commission, Relics Collection, arranged for accurate measurements of the vessel to be taken and architect's plans made before she was finally broken up and burnt," the website says. "In view of her age - now over 150 years old - the possibility of renovating this

historic packet boat was looked into but she was considered to be in far too bad a state for preservation."

Realising the dream of using those detailed drawings to build a replica is expected to cost at least £250,000, and the funding thermometer on the website - which is several years out of date - gives the fund total as £14,000, so even taking into account money which will have been raised since, it is obviously going to be quite a long term project.

Evening of family fun set up by Co-op

A PERFORMANCE of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing will be among the attractions at an event to promote the work of the Co-operative Group.

The firm, which runs a number of businesses and is run and owned by its members, has an entertainment evening in Baschurch Village Hall on November 27.

There will be a performance of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing by Oswestry based theatre group The Od Project.

Guests will also be able to sample new seasonal lines, available in Co-op stores.

There will also be a talk on the Co-operative Group Community Fund which sees members donate all of part of their twice-yearly dividend payments to groups and projects in the region.

Attendees will also receive information on how to apply for a community grant.

Hazel Remeika, of the Co-operative Group, said: "This event will be an opportunity for residents to find out more about the groups supported in their community."

"This event is open to all the family, with entertainment by groups from the community who continue to go from strength to strength thanks to support from the Community Fund."

Entry to the event, at 6.30pm, is free. To book call 08437 519181.



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The Deli can offer an excellent choice of local cheeses and charcuteries and is taking orders for cutting Pies and whole cheeses.

The Farm Shop has a great range of Christmas gifts and food, much of which is produced in our own kitchens. We can also assist you with hampers for clients, staff or family gifts with the emphasis on good local produce, please call to discuss your needs.



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Monday 23rd Dec 7.30am - 6.30pm

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Friday 27th - Saturday 28th Dec
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Sunday 29th Dec 10am - 4pm

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NEWS

01691 668094

Focus on treating addicts is to begin

A FOCUS on testing and treatment to help drug addicts and cut associated crime is being rolled out by West Mercia Police.

Barrie Sheldon, deputy police and crime commissioner, said drugs were one of the force's highest priorities. But he stopped short of backing calls by Durham Police Chief Constable Mike Barton for class A drugs to be decriminalised.

Mr Barton, who is the intelligence lead for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), said he believed decriminalisation of Class A drugs would take away the income of dealers and destroy their power.

Mr Sheldon, a former detective inspector, said: "Our focus is on testing and treatment for those who use drugs. The idea to decriminalise drugs lacks detail at the moment but anything is worth looking at if it provides a feasible solution. But we need proper evidence."

Meeting date

THE Oswestry Plas Ffynnon Millennium Greet Trust and Plas Ffynnon Community Field Trust will hold a joint annual meeting on November 25 at 7pm, at Carreg Llwyd Church, in Laburnum Drive.

Planners throw out bid to build ten homes in village

PLANS for 10 new homes in Kinnerley which had been criticised by a parish council have been thrown out by planning bosses.

Members of Shropshire Council's north planning committee had been advised by officers to give the go-ahead to the building of 10 homes in the village – although they also heard that the area's parish council had misgivings about the proposal.

A planning officer's report said the plan by applicant Steve Jennings for land at the rear of Maesercroft in Kinnerley had been revised since its original submission.

But members of the committee voted against the planned development, Councillor Arthur Walpole said.

by Andrew Morris

Warning over cyber crimes

PEOPLE are being urged to step up their computer security to prevent cyber criminals from accessing their systems.

Police say there has been an increase in the number of victims of a scam which involves criminals blocking files before issuing a ransom demand for their release.

The say extortionists using "ransomware" called CryptoLocker are targeting personal computers using a Microsoft Windows operating system.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Williamson, head of Warwickshire and West Mercia Police cyber crime unit, said the scam was first spotted several months ago.

He has urged victims not to pay-up as it would only encourage further attacks.

The CryptoLocker software is not a virus and gets into computers usually via an email attachment. After blocking all data, a message flashes up saying your personal files have been encrypted with a deadline to pay around £200 to have them released.

He said: "Members discussed the plans and then the matter was voted on and, in a majority decision, the application was refused."

The scheme was reduced from 12 to 10 homes and consisted of two two-bed semi detached, five three-bed detached houses, one four-bed detached house, one three-bed bungalow and a four-bed dormer bungalow.

The report said the revised plans were presented to Kinnerley Parish Council on October 21, which objected to the scheme.

Modifications

The parish council said in its letter of representation: "The planning authority should now ask for this scheme to be resubmitted as a new application due to the number of modifications to the original planning application. This will also allow informal consultation with the parish council prior to resubmission. The design as it presently stands does not comply with national policy that seeks a high standard of design and sustainable development."

The parish council said it was also concerned about the access arrangements to the site and added: "The parish council currently objects to several matters of detailed design such as access to the properties, front and rear, spatial layout in terms of front hallway, integration of fireplaces to justify use of above roof chimneys and location of the external bin store."

Pair's sweet taste of success



Co-owners Becky Stubb, left, and Tracey Ashmore at Sweetlicious in Market Street, Ellesmere.

PEOPLE hankering for the days of the old fashioned sweet shop will be delighted by a new business in Ellesmere.

For Tracey Ashmore and her sister-in-law Becky Stubb have opened Sweetlicious in Market Street, Ellesmere.

The shop offers a huge variety of old fashioned sweets and pick and mix.

Mrs Ashmore said: "My sister-in-law came up with the idea of setting up a sweet shop and we sort of helped each other to do it."

"There's nothing like it in Ellesmere."

"We opened on November 1 and it has been really good so far."

"The people of Ellesmere have been amazing. Everyone who has been in has wished us well. We must say a big thank you to them."

Lincoln McMullan, chairman of Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce, said: "I went in the other day and spoke to them and it looks really interesting."

"There are only two businesses up for rent. The town seems to be very vibrant."

Council is objecting to poultry shed plan

PARISH councillors say they object to plans to build three large poultry rearing buildings in Great Ness.

The plans have been lodged by Great Ness Poultry Ltd, which wants planning permission to expand its existing operation.

The firm already has four existing poultry houses with associated feed bins.

The proposal is out for consultation and although Shropshire Council will make a final decision, members of Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council have been consulted on the plans and lodged an objection.

Their objection says: "Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council object to this planning application on the grounds increase traffic on the roads and visual and environment impact."

Papers submitted to Shropshire Council in support of the bid say the further development of the site will bring an employment boost to the area. They say labour requirement works out as 1.8 full time employees fulfilled by a full time employee, one part-time employee plus additional management.

They also say there is a requirement for contract labour including catchers, cleaners and manure removal so the extended site will require the equivalent of 3.2 full time employees.

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FEATURE & NEWS

01691 668094

Deadline looms to apply for tidy prize

TIME is running out for applications to be submitted for the Tidy Wales Awards, with a chance of winning a £250 cash prize.

Keep Wales Tidy is once again calling on volunteer groups, schools and organisations across Wales to put their names forward for the Tidy Wales Awards. But the deadline is tomorrow (Friday).

This year Keep Wales Tidy has announced a new schools award, sponsored by Hamleys toy shop.

The Tidy Wales Awards recognises groups throughout Wales who work to improve their local environment. These unsung green heroes have inspirational stories to tell of how their volunteering has improved their local environment through reducing litter and protecting wildlife habitats and also created links in communities, and in some instances reducing the impact of poverty.

Shortlisted groups will be invited to attend an awards ceremony on January 22 at the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay.

The awards are organised by Keep Wales Tidy and sponsored by Natural Recourse Wales.

For more information, contact twa@keepwales.org, call Cath Moulougou on 02920 381736 or visit www.keepwales.org

It's magical if you see real fairy rings in the garden

IN 1920 a series of photos rocked the world.

That may sound like a bit of an elaboration given that the end of the First World War with all its horrors only starting to come to light, was just two years prior, but indeed if you had been around at the time, you would know exactly what I was talking about.

The photos had been taken by two little girls, Frances Griffith and Elsie Wright. Whilst playing in the grounds of Elsie's Cottingley village home, they had stumbled across an unbelievable find - fairies happily playing together at the bottom of the garden.

Photographic experts examined the pictures and declared them genuine. And this was certainly the case, the photos themselves WERE genuine.

Spiritualists leapt on the bandwagon and promoted them as proof of the existence of supernatural creatures, and despite criticism by skeptics, the pictures became among the most widely recognised photos in the world.

Yet if you recognise this story and the photos I am commenting on, you will also be aware of some rather problematic features pertaining to the authenticity of the fairies themselves.

They seem rather two dimensional, their wings are never blurred in flight when the waterfall behind is blurred in movement and there are a multitude of bizarre features to all the photographs that defy reasoned argument.

Despite these problems, the photos continued to attract believers. Much of this belief might be attributed to the context of the times.

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

By the end of World War One the English were emotionally bruised and battered by four years of unrelenting bloodshed.

They seemed to be in need of something that would reaffirm their belief in goodness and innocence. They found this reaffirmation in the fairy photographs of Frances and Elsie.

It was not until 1981 that Elsie Wright finally admitted that the fairies were made of paper, inspired by the then popular *Princess Mary's Gift Book*. And yet she could have been genuinely inspired by the real thing.

Romantic

Fear not Dear Reader, I am not advocating anything supernatural in the deliberately and accurately named 'natural world'. I am instead referring to fairy rings.

I'm afraid the truth of these rather dainty little designs are not quite as romantic as post-war, waterfall-filled dells and soft, antique black and white photographs would suggest.

In fact fairy rings might as well be called 'mycelium rings', for it is this fungus, present beneath the soil, that is the cause of the patterns we see on top.

Fairy rings aren't actually very well understood. Just why Mycelium acts in an arcing or circular way, is still a bit of a mystery.



Fairy rings might as well be called 'mycelium rings', for it is this fungus, present beneath the soil, that is the cause of the patterns we see on top.

Occasionally the mushrooms themselves sprout up above the grass and the effect is really quite appealing. Autumn is the best time to see mushrooms and fungi of all types, and indeed they really can exude some pretty astonishing forms and colours. But alas even given their name, you won't

find fairies fluttering above a ring of them. Nevertheless, I'm sure you'll agree that there is certainly something magical about them, in the purely poetic sense that is!

Callaghan's Fine Paintings in Shrewsbury is showing the latest original artworks from Ben.

The use of cautions by police reviewed

THE use of cautions by Dyfed-Powys Police has been reviewed in detail by an experienced multi-agency panel.

The Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel met recently and considered a dozen randomly selected cases to discuss and review whether the outcome arrived at by Dyfed-Powys Police was the right and appropriate one.

The cases reviewed were either cautions or Youth Restorative Disposals and covered offences ranging from assault and burglary to threats to kill and exposure and voyeurism.

Chief Constable Simon Prince said: "There has been a lot of media commentary recently concerning the use of cautions in England and Wales and whether they are being used appropriately and in the best interests of victims. As a police service it is vital that we get this right because people need to have absolutely confidence that we are putting the public first and getting the best possible criminal justice outcomes."

The panel, which comprises magistrates and representatives of the Crown Prosecution Service, Youth offending and Prevention Service and the Dyfed-Powys Police Independent Advisory Group, will look at all out-of-court outcomes.

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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Students get involved in creating big piece of art

by Graham Breeze

STUDENTS from Oswestry have been turning their hand to textiles to create a large-scale piece of art work for a youth centre in the town.

The textiles department at The Marches School has been working alongside The Project Group, a creative arts business in Oswestry, on the textile public art piece, which has been commissioned by Shropshire Council Arts Service.

During the project students have been invited to attend various workshops held at The Project Group studio where they have been able to work alongside professional textiles artists to learn design and manufacturing skills.

Fantastic

The finished project will incorporate technical felting techniques to create a professional piece of art work.

Rachel Metcalfe, leader of textiles at The Marches School, said: "The skills gained will allow them to produce a piece of felt which will be incorporated into the final piece of Textiles art work to be displayed at The Centre when completed."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the students and will give them hands-on practical experience."

"We are delighted to be involved with the project."

The completed design will be displayed in the entrance to The Centre in Oak Street.



Students at the textiles workshop.

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GIG GUIDE

01691 668094

Comic poet sure to have pub crowds in stitches

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts



IN NEED of a good laugh? Then head along to The Cross Keys, Selattyn, this Friday, where comic poet Les Barker will be sure to have you in stitches.

Having started off as an accountant before turning his hand to hilarity, he is perhaps best known for his work with his group The Mrs Ackroyd Band, which was named after his mongrel dog.

Over the years he has performed to audiences around the world as well as finding time to write an incredible 56 books.

He should also be well known to Radio 2 listeners having had his own series of six programmes on the station.

You can expect surreal and amusing poems with clever titles like Jason and the Arguments, Cosmo the Fairly Accurate Knife Thrower and perhaps his best known work, Guide Cats for the Blind.

So if you fancy laughing yourself stupid this weekend then make sure you head along.

The show starts at 8pm with tickets costing £8 for adults and £4 for children. If you're looking for something to do tonight (Thursday) then you're in luck as there will be a screening of Mao's Last Dancer at Kinnerly Parish Hall near Oswestry.

The film is being shown as part of the 'Flicks in the Sticks' season which aims to bring the silver screen to some of the more remote local areas.

Directed by Bruce Beresford, the film follows the story of a Chinese dancer



Les Barker will be sure to have you in stitches.

who defects to the USA at the height of the Cold War.

The screening starts at 7:30pm, for more information ring 01691 682282.

Head down to the Royal Oak, Welshpool on Friday night as there will be music from singer songwriter Tomos Lewis, as well as support from Thin Vision.

Arriving all the way from Cardiff, Tomos has become a frequent performer at the Royal Oak, wowing audiences on a regular basis.

Armed with just an acoustic guitar and his singing voice, his music combines soaring vocals and haunting lyrics. He first gained the attention of music fans with the release of his EP 'Four Songs' last year, with single 'I Died Deep Inside' being named Radio Wales' single of the week.

Support comes from Shropshire based ska/indie band Thin Vision.

Despite only recently finishing their GCSEs the band have made quite a name for themselves, having performed at numerous festivals over the last few months.

They are currently working on their second EP which is due out in the imminent future.

The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

On Friday night Wednesdays bar in Oswestry will feature music from talented duo Neil and Dom.

One plays piano while the other sings, the popular pair perform a variety of classic hits, so make sure you head along.

The show starts at 9pm and is free entry.

The Lowfield Inn, Marton, will have music from duo String Thing on Friday night. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

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MARKETS**Welshpool livestock market****November 18 OTMS (54)**

A entry of 54 over 30 month cattle, resulted in an improved trade, seeing an average of 109.52 pp/kg for the older cows, cows 48-72 months averaged 109.84 pp/kg, a bull over 72 months averaged 123 pp/kg, 2 under 48 month heifers averaged 140.81 pp/kg. A Limousin cow weighing 848 kg from JRS Hughes and Co, Lower Munllyn achieved the top market price of £1085.44; Messrs Hughes therefore receive the Briarwood Products Limited Prize of £25 for the highest priced older cow sold on the day. A Charolais cow weighing 850 kg made £1054 from EW Jones and Son, Lower Llanerchydol. A younger British Blue cow under 72 months also from WG and DE Woosnam, Upper Gwestydd weighing 729 kg made £1093.50, a similar aged Friesian cow weighing 760kg made £889.20 from BJ Griffiths, Lower Pengelli.

FAT CATTLE (7)
7 heavy weight heifers this week, averaged 242.62 pp/kg. 3 Limousin heifers weighing 584 kg, 546 kg and 533 kg made 257 pp/kg, 256 pp/kg and 252 pp/kg respectively from GW and BA Haynes, Trefnant Isaf. Mr Haynes receives the Briarwood Products Limited prize of £25 for the highest pence per kilo on the day. Other Limousin heifers sold to 229 pp/kg from J Corfield and Sons, Fairfield.

PRIME LAMBS (6320)
An impressive entry of 6320 prime lambs, av 166.46 pp/kg.
Lights (967) to 170 pp/kg from DLG Price and Co, Bryncoch. Others to 167 pp/kg from G Jones, Dolcoch. Average of 151.45 pp/kg.
Standards (1538) to 208 pp/kg from NW Owen, Upper Cilhalu. Others to 203 pp/kg from NG and GG Davies, Trawsgeili. Average of 165.51 pp/kg.
Mediums (2699) to 206 pp/kg from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm. Others to 205 pp/kg from H Hughes and Son, Hendy. Average of 170.47 pp/kg.
Heavies (980) to 209 pp/kg from JT Jones, Tynwydd Cyffin. Others to 194 pp/kg from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm. Average of 163.25 pp/kg. Over Weights (84) to 156 pp/kg from ERP and CM Gethin, Gaer Mill. Others to 154

pp/kg from DR Owen and Sons, Sandilands. Average of 147.61 pp/kg.

CULL SHEEP (2447)
A good entry for the time of year, resulted in positive overall averages of £40.96 for cull ewes and £57.14 for cull rams. Topping the section at £115 was a ram presented by EP Parkes and Sons, New House Farm. Top price for the ewes was £111 from DR Owen and Sons, Sandilands, who also sold ewes to £108 and £100, others to £95 from DW and SM Roberts, The White House. 3 Cull Goats sold for £46.

STORE LAMBS AND BREEDING EWES

Store Lambs: An increased entry of 1525 store lambs achieved an average price of £56.70, with a top price of £70 for Texel X tup lambs.
WM Woosnam, Lower Claes achieved the top price of £69.50 for mixed and clean lambs, Texel X ewe lambs from Cefncoed Farms Ltd, Coed Y Parc also made £60.50. Wether lambs achieved a top price of £67.50 for Mule lambs from EM Morgan, Fron Green.

Store Ewes: 289 Breeding ewes entered with a top price of £78 coming from TJ Griffiths, Fronwen for full mouth mules, and also £78 for three year old ewes from A and P Banks and Chenery, The Laurels.

Ewes lambs made a top price of £70 from ME and AS Thomas, Felincoed for Mules.

Yearling Ewes gained a top price of £70 for yearling ewes from A and P Bank and Chenery, The Laurels.

COWS & CALVES

An entry forward of 13 Dairy Cattle met with a good trade once again, with plenty of bidders for all presented. Leading the way was N Samuel of Lower Ystrad, Newbridge-On-Wye, with a heifer giving 30l/day selling for £2000.
5 Pedigree heifers from TG Phillips and Co of Bungenid Farm, Sarnau sold to a top of £1880 for an Autumn Ridge Matson sired heifer with a similar bred heifer making £1810; overall the 5 averaged £1770. 3 Cows from MR Williams of Wern Holding, Pool Quay sold to a good trade with a 2nd calver at £1980, a 4th calver at £1950 and a 5th calver making £1700. G Jones and Co of Tycerig, Llanrhaeadr YM sold a 7th calver sired by Picston Shottle for £1290.

A breakdown of the prices achieved were as follows: £2000 +

1 lot; £1800-£2000 4 lots; £1600-£1800 4 lots; £1400- £1600 1 lot; £1200-£1400 3 lots.

Remember vendors, the annual show and sale will take place on December 2, please let us have your entries as soon as possible.

November 11.**OTMS (78)**

A entry of 73 over thirty month cattle, met with a similar trade, an average of 106.22 pp/kg for the older cows, cows 48-72 months averaged 106.14 pp/kg, bull over 72 months averaged 114.32 pp/kg, under 48 month heifers averaged 148.05 pp/kg. A Friesian cow weighing 819kg from GM and PE Jones and Son, Maesdrew achieved the top market price of £999.18; Messrs Jones therefore receive the Briarwood Products Limited Prize of £25 for the highest priced older cow sold on the day. A Limousin cow weighing 748 kg made £994.84 from JL Jones and Partners, Llanrhys, a younger Limousin cow under 72 months also from Messrs Jones weighing 855 kg made £884.25. A 9 year old Charolais bull weighing 1174 kg made £1326.62 from RG & KA Lewis, Hockleton.

FAT CATTLE (16)

A good entry of 16 fat cattle this week, averaged 202.92 pp/kg. Four medium weight Limousin heifers weighing 402 kg, 415 kg, 459 kg and 426 kg from IG and R Lloyd, Maesglyn made 233 pp/kg, 228 pp/kg, 226 pp/kg and 225 pp/kg respectively. Heavy weight heifers sold up to 253 pp/kg, averaging 219.72 pp/kg. Two heavy weight Limousin heifers from Messrs GW and BA Haynes, Trefnant Isaf weighed 529 kg and 578 kg made 253 pp/kg and 252 pp/kg respectively. Messrs Haynes therefore receives the Briarwood Products Limited prize of £25 for the highest pence per kilo on the day. An entry of four young bulls topped at 160 pp/kg, averaging 155 pp/kg.

PRIME LAMBS (5729)

An entry of 5729 prime lambs, averaged 172.11 pp/kg.

Super Lights (31) to 150 pp/kg from WD Lloyd, Tydyll-Y-Llas. Others to 138 pp/kg from JR and E Roberts, Penardlas. Average of 141.77 pp/kg.

Lights (506) to 188 pp/kg from RT Watkins, Coed Y Deri. Others to 186 pp/kg from EO Hughes and Partners, Pentreagar. Average of 166.92 pp/kg.

Standards (1215) to 209 pp/kg from DE Morgan and Co, Cefn-

twlch. Others to 205 pp/kg from MJ Williams, Pontyperson. Average of 174.58 pp/kg.

Mediums (2622) to 212 pp/kg from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm. Others to 206 pp/kg from WG Jones, Cwmduigan. Average of 171.83 pp/kg.
Heavies (1185) to 185 pp/kg and 181 pp/kg from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm. Others to 175 pp/kg from T and B Williams, Cilmarw. Average of 162.86 pp/kg.
Over Weights (130) to 168 pp/kg from CL and C Watkins, Bank Farm. Others to 159 pp/kg from DR Oliver and Son, Tirddu. Average of 147.56 pp/kg.

CULL EWE (3336)

An increased entry of cull ewes this week, resulted in overall averages of £37.73 for cull ewes and £73.86 for cull rams. Topping the section at £170 was a ram presented by TW Anwyl, Maesmedriol, closely followed was a ram from IC Goodwin, Lower Esgair making £165. Top price for the ewes was £118 from JH and SM Farmer, Red House, others to £99 from DTA Williams, Upper Bolor.

Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx 12 noon.

STORE LAMBS AND BREEDING EWES

Store Lambs: 1455 store lambs were entered this Monday, achieving an average price of £54.27 per head. The sale day top price was £72 for Suffolk X theave lambs, from TM Lloyd, Hendre.

Charolais X tup lambs topped at £68 from JM Jones, Tynnyrw. Texel X mixed and clean lambs made £67 coming from WM Woosnam, Lower Claes. Welsh Halfbred whether lambs gained a top price of £60.80 coming from JF Woosnam and Son, Eisteddile.

Store Ewes: 379 breeding ewes were entered with a top price of £158 for Texel yearling ewes from J Stonall, Nursery Cottage. Mrs Stonall also achieved £150 for a two year old Texel ewe, and £105 for full mouth Texel ewes.

Aberfeldie ewe lambs from HA and ALL Humphreys and Son, Bryn Erwest achieved £83.

COWS & CALVES

An entry of 66 cows and calves met with a sound trade once again, with a good premium for the best offered on offer. Leading the way were 10 cows and calves from RE and CJ Davies, Boycott Hall who presented 5 Limousin X 1st calvers and 5 British Blue X 1st calvers all with Limousin

calves at foot which sold to a top of £2720, other notable prices of £2380, £2240, £2150 and £2080; overall the 10 cows and calves averaged £1940. From PG and G Mountford were 11 British Blue X 2 and 2 Lim X in-calf heifers due next April to a Limousin Bull which sold to a top of £1450, and averaged £1177. Presented by DP Evans, Moelygarth were two Limousin X 2nd calvers with Limousin X bull calves at foot which made £1880 and £1780. A Limousin X 2nd calver with a Limousin bull calf at foot from EJ Lewis, Rhoslas made £1900. Two Limousin X 2nd calvers with Charolais X calves from JBC Gwiliam, Bwlchgarn sold for £1720 and £1710, whilst a Limousin X 1st calver with a British Blue X bull calf made £1900. AS and EM Goulden and Sons, Gilbach sold two Limousin X 1st calvers for £1500 and £1450.

A breakdown of the prices achieved were as follows: £2000 + 5 lots; £1800-£2000 4 lots; £1600-£1800 4 lots; £1400- £1600 14 lots; £1200-£1400 14 lots; £1000-£1200 14 lots; < £1000 9 lots.
Next catalogue sale of cows and calves: Monday, November 25.

A catalogue entry of 100 Store Cattle met with a seasonal trade for the cattle on offer - steers returning an average of 218.74 pp/kg and the heifers averaging 203.60 pp/kg.

Top prices per head are as follows:

British Blue X (x2) £1190 for 587 kg from TM Edwards and Son, Spoonley Farm
Charolais X (x2) £1155 for 485 kg from Edwards and Co, Aber-twynyn

Blonde D'Aquitaine (x1) £1150 for 515 kg from A and LC Evans, Tynnyceyn

Limousin X (x2) £1115 for 460 kg from DC Jerman, TJ Gwellt

British Blue X (x1) £1160 for 475 kg from JRS Hughes and Co, Lower Munllyn

Blonde D'Aquitaine X (x1) £1070 for 465 kg from A and LC Evans, Tynnyceyn

British Blue X (x2) £1000 for 505 kg from Watkins and Lyon, Lower House Farm

Limousin X (x2) £1000 for 485 kg from J and E Williams, New-bridge Farm

Leading prices per kilo
Store Steers
Charolais X (x2) 266.20 pp/kg

for 417 kg from Edwards and Co, Abertwynyn
Blonde D'Aquitaine X (x1) 254.10 pp/kg for 425 kg from A and LC Evans, Tynnyceyn

Charolais X (x1) 250.00 pp/kg for 380 kg from H Hughes and Son, Hendy

Store Heifers
British Blue X (x2) 244.20 pp/kg for 475 kg from JRS Hughes and Co, Lower Munllyn

Charolais X (x1) 231.00 pp/kg for 400 kg from H Hughes and Son, Hendy

Blonde D'Aquitaine X (x1) 230.10 pp/kg for 465 kg from A and LC Evans, Tynnyceyn.

Oswestry cattle auctions**November 13****FAT CATTLE: (71)**

A few more selling on a firm trade throughout. Bulls again a difficult trade which is the same countrywide. Top slots hit 252p for Steers and Heifers and 234p for Bulls. Highest price on the lump was £1562 for a steer. Bottom book of 123p for a friesian bull. An overall market average of 195p was achieved.

Young Bulls (25) Overall Average 170p.

Light Bulls (6) Average 134p (£586/head) Selling to 158p from C E Evans Lower Hendre Medium Bulls (12) Average 172.5p (£906/head) Selling to 234p from G J Wynne & Co Hendre Glan Alwen Heavy Bulls (7) Average 186.5p (£1265/head) Selling to 217p from J M Edwards Lower Morton Farm Steers (20) Overall Average 201p.

Medium Steers (7) Average 199p (£1035/head) Selling to 223p from J D Jones Crogen Idon Heavy Steers (13) Average 201.5p (£1265/head) Selling to 252p from GJ Wynne & Co Hendre Glan Alwen Heifers (26) Overall Average 215p Medium Heifers (2) Average 207.5p (£935/head) Selling to 246p from J E & J T Evans & Son Upper Cefnpenarth Heavy Heifers (24) Average 216p (£1130/head) Selling to 252p from B Powell Gilfachyrrhiw A decent trade throughout. Make sure cattle are meat when you sell them.

FAT LAMBS: (2665)

A good entry and the trade on the whole was very competitive for all types except the heavy and overweight lambs. The Continental cross standard lambs were in

good demand for further feeding. Taking the top price in the light section was G J Wynne & Co Hendre Glan Alwen with 29kg lambs making £52.

The top call in the standard section was £68.50 for 35kg lambs from H M Jones Hafodyresgob Uchaf. The medium lambs topped at £76 for 41.5kg lambs from D I Matthews Waen. Top call of the day was £88 from D A & M G Griffiths & Son Tynllyn. Please note our Xmas Auction is on Wednesday December 4.

Lights to 179p average 165p. Standards to 196p av 174p. Mediums to 183p av 168.5p. Heavy's to 173p av 162p. Others to 163p av 146p. Overall av 170p.

FAT EWES: (456)

Another disappointing entry reflected the poor trade seen earlier in the week which continued today. Best sold would have been grazing ewes with better ewes harder to place. Overall average was £31 with a top price of £73.50 for ewes from P I Edwards, Duddleston. An entry of 39 mainly younger rams averaged £33 with a top price of £67 from P I Edwards, Duddleston.

CALVES: (90)

Quite substantial numbers selling to a good level trade with best continental males keenly contested. Poorer calves some-what discounted today. Best Friesians in short supply. Charolais Bulls topping at £414 from Messrs Pryce Coedmanr. Limousin Bulls to £340 from Messrs Ward Manor Farm, £315 from Messrs Williams The Stocks, £304 & £300 from Messrs Andrew Neavill Uchaf, £302 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawng, £298 from Messrs Owen Bonciau. British Blue Bulls to £288 from Messrs Ellis Henlle. Simmental Bulls to £278 from Messrs Ellis Henlle. Saler Bulls to £268 from Messrs Jones Lythwell Farm. Friesian Bulls to £78 from Messrs Lewis Jones Grange Farm. Charolais Heifers to £282 from Messrs Pryce Coedmanr. Limousin Heifers to £250 from Messrs Owen Bonciau. British Blue Heifers to £245 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. Saler Heifers to £220 from Messrs Jones Lythwell Farm. Weanlings: British Blue Heifers 5 mo to £410 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes.

STORE CATTLE: (147)

A consistent entry met with a more unpredictable trade but

overall still plenty of buyers looking for cattle. Top price of the day went to E. Evans, Bagley whose cracking run of Simmental x steers aged 19-22 months topped out at £1290 (208p/kg) with other cattle making £1270 (198p/kg), £1195 (217p/kg) and £910 (207p/kg).

79 steers averaged £847 (194p/kg) with notable prices including:

J E M Savage, Loppington sold a Charolais x steer aged 7 months for £855

(244p/kg) and 3 steers aged 8-9 months for £690 (241p/kg).

W Clark & Son, Woolston sold 2 Limousin x steers aged 20 months for £1205 (236p/kg) and £1200 (231p/kg).

J E & E Jones, Carrog sold Charolais x steers aged 13-15 months for £940 (224p/kg) and £865 (204p/kg).

68 heifers averaged £818 (189p/kg) with notable prices including:

£765 (225p/kg) paid for a pair of Limousin x steers aged 15 & 17 months sold by R F Roberts, Selattyn.

£1135 (218p/kg) paid for a pair of Limousin x heifers aged 20 months sold by W Clark & Son, Woolston.

£985 (207p/kg) paid for 4 British Blue x heifers aged 18-19 months sold by W D Edwards, Llangedwyn.

Entries are invited for the next catalogue sale to be held on the 27th November.

U72 & CULL COWS: (68)

A much better trade than expected was attained today, bearing in mind the trade experienced in other centres this week.

Trade was on a par with last week, even for the plain cows. Even the stock bulls were in good demand. Top price Cow 157p/kg Heifer 173p/kg Steer 158p/kg Top price overall £1378.00 Cows Limousin to 157p average 131.46p/kg British Blue to 146p average 132.79p/kg Friesian to 136p average 101.21p/kg Other to 137p average 109.46p/kg Heifers Simmental to 173p average 162.61p/kg Other to 160p average 121.42p/kg Steers to 158p average 141.02p/kg Stock Bull to 128p 68 Cattle average 115.69p/kg

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Drive time with Graham Breeze



KIA has revealed its most eagerly anticipated new model with the arrival of the pro_cee'd GT – a high performance three-door job.

The arrival would barely have generated a second glance a little while ago but when the suits at Kia speak everyone takes notice these days.

Kia is now right up there as a mainstream supplier in the UK, with an impressive range, so it's no surprise to discover that this entry into the performance car sector will compete with the best.

Sitting on top of the cee'd range, pro_cee'd GT is Kia's most performance-orientated car yet and has been developed with the enthusiast in mind.

Powered by a turbocharged version of the 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol engine, the GT is not the most powerful in class but can accelerate from 0-60mph in 7.4 seconds and has a top speed of 143mph.

Re-tuned suspension ensures the car is capable of handling its impressive power and torque outputs, though there are better performers in the field. But the pro_cee'd GT offers a lot more space than rivals and is far cheaper than a same-sized hot hatch if less potent.

The sporty lines of the pro_cee'd have been embellished with performance-car additions which give the GT a unique look, and it is the same story for the interior.



High performance car from Kia with the enthusiast in mind

Two trim lines – 'GT' and 'GT Tech' – are being offered, both extensively equipped in typical Kia fashion.

But to mark Kia's entry into the world of performance hatchbacks there is also a limited-production launch model, the 'GT 1st Edition'. Just 500 examples of this special car are being produced, with only 50 earmarked for the UK – so it is probably too late to think about that.

The car is powered by a new turbocharged version of Kia's 1.6-litre 'Gamma' engine, developing 201bhp and 265Nm of torque. It is the first turbocharged petrol engine to be offered by Kia in the UK.

A normally aspirated version of the direct-injection 'Gamma' engine is already available in

the pro_cee'd, but the addition of an exhaust-driven turbocharger raises its power output by 51 per cent and the amount of torque it develops by 61 per cent for truly scintillating performance.

Accelerates

The T-GDi engine develops its 201bhp at 6,000rpm, but what really gives the GT its instantaneous response and rapid acceleration is the 265Nm of torque available without interruption from 1,750rpm to 4,500rpm.

The pro_cee'd GT accelerates from 37 to 60mph in fourth gear in only 5.4 seconds and from 50 to 75mph in fifth gear in 7.3 seconds. The 0-60mph acceleration time is 7.4 seconds.



The GT offers a lot more space than rivals and is far cheaper

In the cabin Kia has done everything possible to look the part with an all-black five-seat cabin. The driver and front passenger are gripped by Recaro sports seats – for the first time in a Kia – adorned with 'GT' and 'Recaro' logos.

Power-adjustable lumbar support is fitted to both front seats. The upholstery is part leather and part suede, and there is red contrast stitching on the seats, steering wheel, gear shifter and door trims.

The leather steering wheel also features perforated grip areas and an overstitched 'GT' logo, and there are stainless steel pedals with non-slip rubber inserts.

Kia's familiar three-dial sporty instrument

Bumper to bumper

Car: Kia pro_cee'd 1.6

Model: GT Tech

Price: £22,495

Top speed: 143mph

0-60mph: 7.4secs

CO2 emissions: 171g/km

Combined fuel: 38.2mpg

Insurance group: 29

layout is enhanced by a multi-function high-definition display which allows the driver to switch between analogue-type or GT performance digital information.

A 'GT' button on the steering wheel allows the driver to change the display without taking a hand off the wheel.

The really good news comes when you talk pounds and pennies because prices start at £19,995 and finish at a fiver under £24,000.

Kia has just enjoyed its best six months on record in the UK and although the GT will not be a major seller it will play its part as the company continues to grow market share and there will be a five door version early next year.



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Motoring

Aston Martin hits ton with a driving delight

By Matt Joy

It's party time at Aston Martin. Their centenary year has been a glorious celebration of machinery new and old, and it's been a very satisfying experience to see just how far the marque has come, especially over the last decade.

The CC100 concept is quite something, but you can't buy the concept in your local dealer. The Vantage V12 S, however, is a different story.

The Vantage is Aston Martin's entry model – if you can call it that – and in its V8 guise, it's a gusty yet comfortable sports car. However, in 2009 the company's CEO Dr Ulrich Bez decreed that Aston's smallest car should be the recipient of its biggest engine; the 6.0-litre V12.

This automotive alchemy required a great deal of work. Squeezing a 6.0-litre V12 engine into a space that was never designed to hold it creates a few issues, but in achieving it they created a 21st century muscle car. And it was brilliant.

The V12 S is that little bit extra too. Right out of the box, it is second only to the outrageous £1 million One-77 hypercar in terms of acceleration; the Vantage V12 S can crack 60mph from rest in 3.7 seconds.

It's helped by the engine; a new V12 that first appeared in the Vanquish but has now been inserted into the smaller and lighter Vantage. While the old car did rather well with 510bhp the



King of the road – Aston Martin's marvellous Vantage V12

new one offers 565bhp which, by any stretch of the imagination, is a lot.

It looks like no other Aston Martin either. The previous V12 Vantage looked pretty tough thanks to an extended bodykit and many much-needed vents in the bonnet, but the V12 S is a different animal.

It looks barely capable of containing the muscle within, like a bodybuilder crammed into a shirt three sizes too small. As you walk up to it

and climb inside, it looks a lot like its GT4 racing siblings.

Climb inside through the clever upswinging 'swan wing' doors and you sit low and snug. The standard sports seats are good but the optional bucket items offer top-drawer support and save a few pounds in weight too. Slot the sapphire glass key into the slot and the V12 S whirs and snarls into life.

In standard mode the exhaust runs through a



Sheer luxury – the Vantage is started with a sapphire glass key

hefty silencer, which keeps the noise civilised. Punch the Sport button and this is bypassed, giving full noise. You will want to do this as often as possible.

Hit the D button on the dashboard and the Speedshift III automated manual transmission is ready to go. Newly developed for this installation, Aston says it offers its fastest shifts and is lighter than the previous manual gearbox.

The V12 S can do the urban crawl thing. The

Bumper to bumper

Aston Martin Vantage
V12 S, £138,000

Engine: 6.0-litre petrol unit producing 565bhp and 457lb.ft of torque
Transmission: Seven-speed automated manual driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 205mph, 0-62mph in 3.9 seconds
Economy: 15mpg combined (est)
Emissions: 390g/km (est)

ride is firm, of course, but there's new adaptive damping to help and it's more than comfortable enough. The engine has so much torque you can be extremely lazy with the gears, or just let it do its own thing in automatic mode – be prepared for people to stop and stare.

But don't waste your time in town. Get the V12 S out into the country, to its natural playground of twisty and challenging B-roads, and the whole thing comes to life. For starters, the engine is magnificent. With the car in Sport mode and the transmission in manual you can really exploit its performance. It almost doesn't matter what gear you're in; the V12 S just blasts forwards, right around the rev counter with that spine-tingling soundtrack egging you on.

Standard carbon ceramic brakes are reassuring to have when shedding high speeds, and the firm pedal action is a big help. The gear changes are undoubtedly rapid if not quite as smooth as a dual clutch transmission, but there's rarely a moment when you think about anything other than what a spectacularly fun car it is to drive.

With so much power going through the rear wheels it's easy to think it would be a total hoiligan, but traction is very good. Even with the dynamic stability control switched to Track mode it's very rare that you have to correct a wayward rear end. It builds your confidence, but still allows you to have fun.

At this price and performance, the Vantage V12 S is fairly short on rivals. Germany offers a few, but it will only take one look at the Aston to know if it's the car for you. And if it pushes your buttons with a glance, you can rest assured it is a complete thriller from behind the wheel too.

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62 Reg Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge

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£7995	Nil	£30.75	

59 Reg Vauxhall Astra



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£5995	Nil	£23.05	

06 Reg Ford Focus



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£3995	Nil	£15.36	

63 Reg Citroen DS3



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£13995	Nil	£53.83	

12 Reg Ford Fiesta



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£8995	Nil	£34.59	

10 Reg Vauxhall Zafira



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6995	Nil	£26.90	

10 Reg Fiat Punto



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£4495	Nil	£17.28	

09 Reg Seat Ibiza Coupe



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£7495	Nil	£28.82	

10 Reg Renault Megane



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6995	Nil	£26.90	

12 Reg Seat Leon Diesel



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£10995	Nil	£42.28	

12 Reg Citroen C3



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6995	Nil	£26.90	

12 Reg Vauxhall Corsa



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6995	Nil	£26.90	

60 Reg Renault Twingo



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£5495	Nil	£21.13	

62 Reg Fiat Panda



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6495	Nil	£24.98	

60 Reg Renault Clio



Cash Price & Total Payable	Deposit	260 Weekly Payments of	0% APR
£6495	Nil	£24.98	

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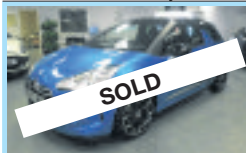
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2012 12 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D SPORT
Manual. Metallic Blue, Black roof, 11,000 miles,
1 owner, FSH **SOLD**



2005 05 BMW X3 2.0d SPORT Blue
Metallic, full leather interior, FSH
£10,499



2009 09 FORD CMAX ZETEC TDCi
Manual Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles
£6,999



2009 09 FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC
Hatch back 1 owner, only 16,000
miles, Manual, Metallic Silver
£7,999



2006 56 BMW 535D SPORT TOURING.
Silver Metallic, 68,000 miles,
1 owner **£13,999**



2011 11 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 GRAND PRIX
5-door. White, one owner, low mileage
£7,299



2008 08 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 STYLANCE
5-door. Yellow, 54,000 miles, FSH
£3,999



2007 07 HYUNDAI COUPE 2.0 S 3-door.
Blue Metallic, Black leather, sunroof,
alloy wheels, 37,000 miles **£5499**



2010 60 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC
5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic,
only 5,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH
£8,999



2012 12 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D STYLE
Manual. Bright Yellow, Black roof, 19,000
miles, free road tax, FSH **£11,999**

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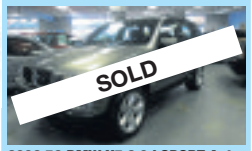
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2007 07	AUDI A3 2.0 SLINE SPORT BACK 6 Speed Manual Bright Red, 2 tone leather, Full play Roof, only 30,000 miles, FSH.....	£10,999
2010 59	ALFA ROMEO 1.4 MITO LUSO 3-door 6-speed. Bright Red, 39,300 miles, alloy wheels, air con	£7,699
2009 59	MINI CLUBMAN 1.6 COOPER Auto. 1 owner, 29,000 miles, White, FSH	£8,999
2002 52	ALFA ROMEO SPIDER T-SPARK LUSO Convertible. Silver Metallic, leather seats, alloy wheels, 58,100 miles.....	£3,699
2010 10	BMW 118 des 6-Speed Manual 5-door. Bright Red, FSH, 62,000 miles.....	£10,499
2006 56	BMW X5 3.0d SPORT Auto, Metallic Grey, Black leather, only 50,000 miles, FSH.....	SOLD
2010 60	BMW 318i ES SALOON Manual. 1 owner, 27,000 miles, Metallic Black, FSH.....	£11,999
2006 56	BMW 535D SPORT TOURING. Silver Metallic, 68,000 miles, 1 owner	£13,999
2006 06	BMW 118d 5-door Manual. Metallic Grey, FSH.....	£6,999
2005 05	BMW X3 2.0d SPORT 6 speed, Manual, only 49,000 miles, Metallic Blue, leather, FSH	SOLD
2009 59	CITROEN C4 VTR+ Hd 5-door. Red, 60,200 miles	£5,799
2005 05	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDi Metallic Blue, 94,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D SPORT Manual. Metallic Blue, Black roof, 11,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£12,999
2012 12	CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi D STYLE Manual. Bright Yellow, Black roof, 19,000 miles, free road tax, FSH	£11,999
2006 06	FIAT SCUDO VAN 2.0 JTD 3 front seats. Side loading door, roof rack, 102,000 miles.....	SOLD
2011 11	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 GRAND PRIX 5-door. White, one owner, low mileage.....	£7,299
2006 06	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 3-door. Metallic Black, 83,000 miles	£2,499
2009 09	FORD CMAX ZETEC TDCi Manual Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles	£6,999
2010 60	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5-door Manual. Bright Blue Metallic, only 5,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£8,999
2006 06	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi GHIA Manual 5-door. Metallic Silver, 63,000 miles.....	£4,999
2005 05	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi EDGE Metallic Silver, 81,000 miles	£2,999
2009 09	FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC Hatch back 1 owner, only 16,000 miles, Manual, Metallic Silver	£7,999
2010 10	FORD TRANSIT VAN TDCi LWB Medium roof, 1 owner, 35,000 miles, White, no VAT.....	£8999
2010 10	FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM 5-door. Manual, Metallic Red, 18,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£8,999
2009 59	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 26,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£6,999
2008 08	HONDA CIVIC 2.2 CDTi EX Hatchback Manual. 46,000 miles, Metallic Silver, FSH	£7,699
2007 07	HYUNDAI COUPE 2.0 S 3-door. Blue Metallic, Black leather, sunroof, alloy wheels, 37,000 miles	£5,499
2003 03	JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6 4-door Manual. Red with half leather upholstery, 2 owners, 40,500 miles, immaculate condition	£4,999
2007 56	LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2 TD4 SE 6 speed Manual. Metallic Black, sat nav/half leather/sunroof, 52,000 miles, FSH	£13,499
2007 07	Landrover Freelander 2 TD4 GS, 6 speed manual, Metallic Red, 49,000 miles, 2 Owners, FSH.....	£12,499
2006 06	LANDROVER RANGE ROVER SE TDV6 Automatic, Metallic Black, Grey leather, 54,000 miles, FSH.....	£16,999
2006 06	LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 3 TDV6 HSE Automatic. Metallic Blue, Cream leather, 57,000 miles, FSH.....	£16,999
2012 62	MG 6 1.8 TURBO HATCH 5-door, Manual, 1,800 miles, White. Like brand new	£8,999
2010 60	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA Manual. Metallic Red, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£10,999
2011 11	NISSAN JUKE ACENTA 1.6 DCi Manual, Metallic Red, only 15,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£10,999
2007 57	PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT 1.6 Manual. Metallic Silver, 43,000 miles, FSH.....	£5,499
2011 11	PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4 5-door. Light Metallic Blue, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH.....	£6,999
2010 10	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 5-door. Blue, 1 owner, 21,000 miles.....	£6,999
2008 08	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 3-door Manual. Metallic Black, 39,000 miles, FSH	SOLD
2010 10	RENAULT MODUS 1.2 EXPRESSION 5-door, Manual. Bright Blue Metallic. 1 owner, 42,000 miles, FSH.....	£5,499
2009 59	RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION 5-door. Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles.....	£5,999
2008 08	SEAT IBIZA 1.4 STYLANCE 5-door. Yellow, 54,000 miles, FSH.....	£3,999
2002 02	SEAT LEON 1.4 S 16V 5-door. Bronze Metallic, alloy wheels, 79,000 miles, excellent condition	£1,999
2009 09	SKODA OCTAVIA SCOUT 2.0 TDi 4X4 ESTATE Manual. Blue, 64,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2009 09	SKODA OCTAVIA SKOUT 4x4 TDi Estate Manual. Blue, 1 owner, FSH.....	£10,999
2009 09	SKODA 1.8 TFSi SALOON Manual. Metallic Blue, 36,000 miles	£7,499
2009 09	SKODA 1.8 T OCTAVIA 6 Speed Manual. 36,000 miles, 1 owner, Metallic Blue, FSH	£7,499
2006 55	SUZUKI IGNIS 1.5 GLX VVT 5-door. Grey Metallic, 57,500 miles, alloy wheels	£3,999
2006 56	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 5-door Manual, Metallic Black, 51,000 miles.....	£4,499
2009 59	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3-door Manual ,Metallic Silver, 47,000 miles	£5,299
2008 08	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 BREEZE HATCH 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 31,000 miles.....	£5,499
2004 04	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.9 CDTi VAN 5 Seater Manual. Metallic Blue, 76,000 miles, alloys, AC, colour coded twin side doors	SOLD
2003 03	VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DTi Saloon Manual. Metallic Blue, 52,000 miles	SOLD
2006 06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB 5-door. Silver Metallic, 58,000 miles, alloy wheels	£3,999
2008 08	VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic, 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic.....	£17,999
2010 10	VOLVO XC60 DS SE LUX AWD Metallic Bronze, full leather interior, manual, 1 owner, FSH	SOLD
2006 06	VW PASSAT 2.0 TDi SPORT ESTATE Manual. Metallic blue, 86,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2009 09	VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp Manual, 5-door. p. Metallic Black, Full Leather, 47,000 miles, FSH	£11,499
2008 08	VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp 2.0 TDi 5-door 6-speed Manual. Metallic Grey, full leather, privacy glass, 54,000 miles, FSH	£9,499
2007 07	VW GOLF TDi PLUS SE 5-door.p .Manual, 67,000 miles, FSH.....	£5,999
2008 58	VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SPORT 4MOTION. Champagne Silver, 38,000 miles.....	£13,999
2013 13	VW TRANSPORTER CAMPER VAN Metallic Dark Wood, 11,000 miles, Brand New Camper 4 Berth Conversion done by Gee Wagen, Oswestry, top spec, air con, cruise control, FSH	Due In



2003 03 JAGUAR X TYPE 2.5 V6
4-door Manual. Red with
half leather upholstery, 2 owners,
40,500 miles, immaculate condition
£4,999



2006 56 BMW X5 3.0d SPORT Auto,
Metallic Grey, Black leather, only
50,000 miles, FSH **SOLD**



2010 10 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM
5-door. Manual, Metallic Red,
18,000 miles, one owner, FSH **£8,999**



2009 09 SKODA 1.8 TFSi
SALOON Manual. Metallic Blue,
36,000 miles **£7,499**



2008 08 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6
3-door Manual. Metallic Black,
39,000 miles, FSH **£4,499**



2011 11 NISSAN JUKE ACENTA 1.6
DCi Manual, Metallic Red, only 15,000
miles, 1 owner, FSH **£11,699**



2008 08 VW GOLF GT TDi 140bhp 2.0 TDi
5-door 6-speed Manual. Metallic
Grey, full leather, privacy glass,
54,000 miles, FSH **£9,499**



2008 58 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi
SPORT 4MOTION.
Champagne Silver, 38,000 miles
£13,999



2010 10 VOLVO XC60 DS SE LUX AWD
Metallic Bronze, full leather interior,
manual, 1 owner, FSH **SOLD**



2011 11 PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 1.4
5-door. Light Metallic Blue, 24,000
miles, 1 owner, FSH **£6,999**

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Total Cash Price:	£3200	Monthly Payments:	£65
APR:	7.9%	Weekly Payments:	£15
Term of Loan:	60 Months	Total Payable:	£3900

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IPOD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION,
PRIVACY GLASS

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ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, PARKING
SENSORS, CLIMATE
CONTROL, ALLOYS, IPOD
CONNECTION, EXCELLENT
MPG, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

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POWER STEERING, BLACK
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TAX AND EXCELLENT MPG

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PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
PRIVACY GLASS,
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IPOD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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SPORT COUPE
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CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
STILL UNDER SEAT
WARRANTY TILL 2015,
LOW TAX, INSURANCE AND
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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NISSAN MICRA 1.2 VISIA
3 DOOR, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE,
TAX AND EXCELLENT MPG

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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI
DESIGN AUTO
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, HALF LEATHER,
EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2
EXCLUSIVE
5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, TAX AND
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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DCI PRIVILEGE TOM TOM
7 SEATER, SAT NAV,
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P/STEERING, E/WINDOWS,
HALF LEATHER, PRIVACY
GLASS, EXCELLENT MPG,
LOW TAX, INSURANCE AND
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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MINI COOPER 1.6
3 DOOR, 6 SPEED,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
PARROT, TLC PACK,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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CARS OF THE WEEK

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE A/C


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WINDOWS, HEATED SEATS
AND STEERING WHEEL,
IPOD CONNECTION,
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VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SE


 5 DOOR, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON, POWER
STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, HEATED SEATS
AND STEERING WHEEL,
STILL UNDER
VAUXHALL WARRANTY,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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£30 TAX PER YEAR, UP TO 60MPG**
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9
CDTI SXI
6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS,
5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

 Buy this car, and drive away today from only £27 per week*.
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16V DYNAMIC MPV
£30 TAX PER YEAR,
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD
PLAYER, AIR CON,
P/STEERING, SLIDING
BACK DOORS, ROOF
BARS, OVER 60 MPG,
IPOD CONNECTION,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

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SPORT**League tables and results****Mercian Regional Football League**

Premier division: Aliscott 1, Oakengates Athletic 1, FC Hodnet 0, Madeley Sports 3; Kelley Town 2, Bridgnorth Reserves 1; Morda Utd 6, Telford Juniors 1; Pries 1, Kelley Bank Utd 2; Church Stretton 1, Wellington Amateurs Reserves 2; Weston Rhyn 0, Whitchurch 6.

Division one: Bishop's Castle Town 0, Shawbury Utd Reserves 0; Oswestry Town 2, Childs Ercall 1; Hanwood Utd Reserves 2, Dawley Town 3; Meole Brace 3, Oakengates Rangers 4; Rock Rovers 3, Oswestry Villa 1; Shrewsbury Utd 5, Hopegate Utd 1; Wrockwardine Wood Juniors 3, Brown Cleve 0.

Division two: AFC Brosley 3, AFC Wellington 1; Claverley 10, Denso 0; Impact Utd 10, Shrewsbury Utd Reserves 1; Ludlow Town Colts 4, Donnington Sports and Social 6; Oswestry Villa Reserves 1, Highley Miners Welfare 0; Spalgia Britannia 0, Wrockwardine Wood 5.

PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Oakengates Ath.	13	7	3	32	17	24				
Telford Juniors	11	7	2	29	16	13	23			
Whitchurch Alp R.	14	6	3	27	19	8	23			
Kelley Bank Utd	13	6	4	21	22	-1	21			
Morda United	12	6	4	26	16	20				
FC Hodnet	13	6	5	20	0	20				
Kelley Town	10	6	4	17	19	-2	18			
Weston Rhyn	14	5	6	26	30	-4	18			
Church Stretton	12	5	5	24	22	2	17			
Shifnal United	9	10	5	40	15	5	16			
Shrewsbury Utd	13	5	7	19	27	-8	16			
Wellington Arms R.	11	4	4	17	22	-5	15			
Pries	12	4	7	18	23	-5	13			
Aliscott	14	1	7	13	28	-15	9			
Bridgnorth T Res.	14	1	9	16	35	-19	7			

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Oswestry Town	14	11	0	53	10	43	36			
Bishop's Castle	13	10	3	47	13	34	30			
Childs Ercall	11	9	2	49	9	40	27			
Rock Rovers FC	11	7	2	48	20	28	23			
Dawley Town	14	7	5	42	34	8	23			
Hanwood Utd R.	12	6	4	41	15	26	20			
Oswestry Villa	13	6	5	36	26	10	20			
Clee Hill	11	5	2	30	19	11	19			
Wroxeter Rovers	8	5	0	35	8	27	18			
Brown Cleve	12	4	7	26	31	-5	13			
Meole Brace	11	4	7	22	62	-40	12			
Oakengates Rgrs	13	3	8	19	45	-26	11			
Wrock Wood Jrs	14	3	9	19	50	-31	11			
Shawbury Utd R.	14	3	9	16	47	-31	11			
Shrewsbury Utd	13	2	10	26	74	-48	2			
Hopegate United	14	1	12	19	67	-48	2			

DIVISION 2										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Wrock Wood	15	12	0	82	20	62	36			
AFC Brosley	14	12	0	79	15	64	36			
AFC Wellington	13	8	4	72	30	42	25			
Market Dron F.C.	12	8	3	51	22	29	25			
Claverley	12	8	4	56	22	34	24			
Donnington S & S	12	8	4	62	33	29	24			
Impact	12	7	2	52	24	28	24			
Ludlow T. Colts	13	4	4	54	15	39	14			
Oswestry V Res.	13	8	1	37	16	19	13			
G/Spalgia Britannia	13	4	8	22	62	-40	13			
Highley Miners W.	13	1	9	28	46	-18	6			
Shrewsbury Utd R.	13	2	11	20	85	-65	6			
Altrington Juniors	12	2	9	21	55	-34	7			
Denso	13	0	12	113	127	-14	0			

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
sun Inn	10	9	1	50	20					
Cock PIA	8	6	2	36	20					
Powis Arms PIA	10	5	3	34						
Cock A	4	4	29	27						
Social Club	9	4	5	29	34					
G/Dragon Butt A.	8	4	4	28	28					
Priewood C.	8	4	4	28	28					
G/Dragon Butt A.	9	3	6	27	36					
Celts	8	3	5	26	30					
Priewood A.	8	3	5	25	31					
Waterloo	8	4	23	23						
Compasses	8	3	5	22	34					

DIVISION 2										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Westwood Wand.	9	7	2	41	22					
Talbot	8	7	1	40	16					
Bridenden	9	6	3	38	25					
The Real Railway	8	6	2	36	20					
Bowling Club	8	5	3	33	23					
Angel	10	4	6	31	39					
Priewood Dragons	8	4	4	30	26					
Kings Head	9	4	5	28	35					
Westwood	9	3	6	27	36					
Murkies Bunch	8	3	5	23	33					
R&F Boys	8	1	7	17	39					
Wellington	8	1	7	14	42					

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Black Lion	7	4	3	28	14	11				
Cross Foxes	7	4	3	28	14	11				
Penybont Inn	7	5	0	25	17	10				
Horseshoes	6	4	0	21	15	8				
Plas Yn Dinas	7	3	2	23	19	8				
Black Lion A	6	3	0	30	16	6				
Top White Lion	7	1	4	19	23	6				
Station	6	1	3	18	18	5				
Railway Station	6	2	1	3	17	5				
White Lion	6	1	3	17	19	5				
Bradford Arms	6	2	1	3	16	5				
Black Horse	7	1	2	15	27	4				
Barley Mow	6	0	6	6	30	0				
Plas Yn Dinas 3, Black Lion B 3; Railway Tavern 4, White Lion Llynchys 2; Cross Foxes 6, Top White Lion 0; Penybont Inn 1, Horseshoes 5; Penybont Inn 1, Horseshoes 4; Barley Mow 2; Black Lion A 2, Bradford Arms 4.										

DIVISION 2										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Manchester Medics	11	10	0	1	10	50				
L'pool Collegiate	11	10	0	1	8	48				
Bowdon	11	10	0	1	8	38				
Ormskirk	11	10	0	1	8	38				
Vagabonds	11	6	5	6	30					
Oswestry	11	5	1	5	6	28				
Priewood	11	5	1	5	6	28				
Southport	11	7	0	4	4	27				
Moore	11	4	1	6	7	25				
Orell	11	4	1	5	5	17				
Marple	11	3	0	8	16					
Dukinfield	11	2	8	2	10					
Ramsay	11	2	0	9	0	8				
Walsley	10	0	10	2	8					

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Cross Foxes	8	6	1	10	19					
Malpas	7	5	1	10	16					
Oak Inn	7	5	1	10	16					
Athletic Market	7	3	1	10	12					
Lodge Inn	8	2	5	14	7					
Tavern FC	7	1	5	9	4					
The Keys	11	0	11	1	1					
Dudleston Heath	6	0	5	15	1					



Sebastien Ogier with his trophy

Ogier wins Wales rally GB in style

SEBASTIEN OGIER crowned his remarkable World Rally Championship-winning season in style by clinching victory at Wales Rally GB on Sunday.

The rally this year had two stages at Chirk Castle near Oswestry on Saturday and it proved to be a massive hit with thousands of rally fans attending the event.

In fact it was so well attended that many people with tickets didn't even make the event due to the car parks filling early and the congestion on the roads.

Rally bosses admitted visitor numbers were higher than expected, leading to difficulties.

Andrew Coe, chief executive for

event organiser International Motor Sports, said: "Moving the event to north Wales has proved a huge success. Unfortunately this led to a number of spectators not being able to gain entry to stages at Chirk Castle. We're aware that many of these were existing ticket holders and for that we apologise."

French winner Ogier, who secured his maiden title last month, collected a ninth win of the season in his Volkswagen Polo R when beating team-mate Jari-Matti Latvala into second place in Llandudno.

Only outgoing champion Sebastien Loeb, who won 10 out of 13 stages in 2005, can boast a better campaign record than his 29-

year-old namesake and countryman.

Finland's Latvala had won the last two editions of the British rally but it was Thierry Neuville of Belgium in his Ford Fiesta RS who claimed the final podium position and second place in the championship.

Ogier, who eclipsed his previous best in Wales of 11th in 2011, told WRC.com: "I'm so happy, and big thanks to the team once again - the car was perfect."

"I came here knowing this rally was not the best for me in the past, and even with that we managed to win a battle with a team-mate who feels at home here."

Two-time winner Latvala ulti-

mately drifted out to 21.8 seconds behind his team-mate, having been just 19.5secs off the pace after the two opening stages.

● Llanfyllin-based co-driver Dale Furniss, 24, and driver Osian Pryce slipped down the leaderboard in the DS3 R3 division after suffering a mechanical fault on Friday.

But they responded well by recording the fastest times in their category on Saturday and yesterday. Oswestry's Ben McKay had to retire on the third day of the event after the car he was in rolled down an embankment. He was today heading to France to take part in the Rallye Du Var, which takes place this coming weekend.

Heath see win hopes dashed by late goal

LOWLY Dudleston Heath secured their first point of the season in the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League with a 3-3 draw at The Keys - and were only denied victory by a last gasp penalty.

Tom Freeman gave The Keys the lead with Lee Thompson levelling, with Freeman then restoring the advantage only for Karl Vickers to earn parity again for the Heath.

Dudleston then went 3-2 up with an amazing free kick from Bradley Homes whose 50 yard shot deceived keeper Tom Roberts and went in off the post.

However, in the last minute, Heath's Kenny Griffiths handled in the box and Freeman completed his hat-trick from the resulting spot kick.

Leaders CROSS FOXES remain three points clear at the top after beating TAV-ERN 4-1. They had to come from behind as Jon Beckett gave the Tavern a 29th minute lead, but Adam Herbert levelled from the spot on 42 minutes when Karl Lewis brought down Kyle Stephenson in the box.

Visitors

Then a just a minute later Herbert put the Foxes ahead after being put through by Ben Pierpoint.

Chris Hullett made it 2-2 when shooting in from close range following a goalmouth scramble, but Herbert completed his hat-trick with the goal of the game on 76 minutes when firing home a through ball from Sam Litchfield.

Foxes made it 4-2 on 87 minutes when Mike Lloyd's 20 yard shot was deflected in off Kevin Bebb.

MALPAS stayed hard on the heels of the Foxes, just three points behind but with a game in hand, following their 7-1 romp at THE LODGE.

Callum Parry and Lee Parry both notched hat-tricks for the visitors with Jake Wainwright getting their seventh. Sam Nash scoring the Lodge's consolation goal.

It was honours even as ATHLETIC MARKET finished 1-1 with OAK INN.

After a goalless first half, Dave Hartshorn broke the deadlock on the hour to give the Oak the lead but Market equalised in the 75th minute when a James Carsley corner was headed in at the far post by Joe Smith.

Sunday Fixtures: Lodge v The Keys, Oak v Malpas, Tavern v Dudleston Heath, Athletic Market v Cross Foxes.

Competition is fierce for medal glory

THE Oswestry Golf Club Christmas Competition number 3 attracted 37 entries.

The four ball better ball medal was won, on count-back, by Lee Anslow (0.0) & Keith Miller (5.5) with 61.

Second were Andy Allen (8.7) & Ralph Pell (11.6), also 61.

In third place was Chris Shay (13.4) & Mervyn Williams (14) 62 followed by Graham Sayers & Ian Pearce on 64.

Fifth place went to David Griffiths & Mick Dickens with 65. They won on count-back from sixth placed Rob Williams and Owain Williams 65*.

Town move six points clear

Heads you win - FC Oswestry Town goalscorer Graham Dyke goes up for the ball

SPORT

Guiltsfield bounce back after shock loss

GUILTSFIELD shook off the previous week's Welsh Cup upset with a welcome 2-1 home win over Holyhead Hotspur to revive their fortunes in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

Stunned by their surprise defeat to Llanfair United in the cup, the Guils were determined to bounce back and did so courtesy of goals from Nathan Leonard and James Henderson – with victory lifting them up to sixth position in the table.

On a day when all six Mid Wales clubs were due to be in action at home, the Rally GB Wales ruled the roads as all the visiting clubs facing trips into the Powys area endured nightmare journeys.

Holyhead were no exception as they suffered a four-hour trek to Guilsfield after being caught up in the rally traffic which led to a 35-minute delay to the kick off as referee Phil Roszkowski was also snarled up in the same predicament. However, this did not spoil the action on the field which led to a very entertaining encounter.

Surprisingly, Holyhead started the brighter but the Guils eased their way into the game by getting the ball down on the true surface at the Community Centre Ground.

Leonard opened the scoring for the hosts after a sweet move down the right led to Kevin Renshaw finding top scorer Danny Barton who slipped the ball to the captain to slot home from 10 yards.

Holyhead were always a danger on the break but the Guils held firm and doubled their lead on the stroke of half time with Henderson finding the net after the Anglesey visitors had failed to clear their box.

TNS are three points clear after Wilde grabs late goal

Afan Lido 1 The New Saints 2

MIKE Wilde's late winner lifted The New Saints three points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier after coming from behind to clinch a 2-1 victory at lowly Afan Lido.

The defending champions had to battle all the way as Lido made a mockery of their basement position to take a 28th minute lead through Chris Hartland who sprinted clear of the defence before drilling his shot into the corner of the net.

However, two goals in the second half turned the game around, with left back Chris Marriott levelling 11 minutes after the break when firing a 25-yard free kick into the bottom corner after winger Chris Jones had been fouled.

The Saints pushed for the winner, but were made by some solid defence with Alex Darlington denied by a close range save by keeper Richards and Phil Baker heading just over.

When Marriott struck the upright with another terrific free kick, it looked like the league leaders would have to settle for a point, but they snatched a valuable victory in the last minute of normal time when Wilde headed home from a corner.

With rivals Airbus UK losing 1-0 at home to Bangor City, it could prove a crucial victory with the Saints now moving three points clear at the top to take a grip of the title race. "It was always

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

going to be a potential banana skin, Lido's results this season don't reflect their performances, and at one stage we didn't think it would be our night," said head coach Carl Darlington.

"But we kept going, showed a fantastic attitude and desire, and were ecstatic to come away with the three points as these are the sort of games where leagues are

won and lost." TNS had started brightly with Chris Seargeant hitting a close range free kick over the bar but clear-cut chances were few and far between in an evenly contested opening period.

However, the visitors were rocked on the half hour mark when Hartland race away from both defenders Phil Baker and Kai Edwards, before firing into the bottom corner from just inside the box.

Moments later, Wilde when close to levelling when powering a volley just over after Darlington's strike had been blocked and then Jamie Mullan's precise cross was blocked by the stubborn home defence.

Interception

In the last minute of the first half, Chris Jones brought a flying save from keeper Craig Richards with a strike from an acute angle.

The second half started with Lido – buoyed by their first win of the season the previous week – once again defending well and looking dangerous on the break, with Baker forced into a crucial interception in one raid.

However, the game turned with left back Marriott levelling matters with a well-taken free kick and the former Wrexham defender then turned provider for Baker who headed narrowly over.

Darlington was thwarted from inside the six yard box by Richards as the Saints stepped up a gear, Marriott denied by the inside post, but their efforts were finally rewarded when Wilde powered in the winner.

● Airbus UK saw their challenge fade after going down 1-0 at home to Bangor City, Jamie Petrie getting the game's only goal.

Frustration boiled over in the closing minutes with Phil Bolland of Airbus and Bangor's Les Davies sent-off for fighting, while the hosts also had Jay Owen dismissed in the last minute.

Holyhead got back into the game 10 minutes into the second half as a slip by keeper Dave Littleford allowed Darren Cowans' cross shot to squirm over the line – a real setback for the home side who then had a very nervy period.

However, the villagers came on strong towards the end of the game as Renshaw and Mark Davies carried the threat to the Islanders.

Daunting

After 10 minutes of injury time, the Guils were happy to have claimed the three points and make a massive jump up the table to sixth place. They bid to keep up the good work at Penycae on Saturday.

It was a frustrating day for LLANRHAEDR who continue to prop up the

table on goal difference after their home clash with Penycae was postponed when the match referee failed to show after being held up in the rally traffic en route to game. Some of the opposition team were also delayed as heavy traffic brought havoc to the roads.

They face a daunting task on Saturday at league leaders Cefn Druids who underlined their credentials with a 5-0 mauling of Llanidloes Town last week.

Saturday fixtures: Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30 unless stated) Cefn Druids v Llanrhaeadr, Caernarfon Town v Conwy Borough, Flint Town Utd v Rhayader Town, Holyhead Hotspur v Caersws, Llandudno v Penrhyncoch, Penycae v Guilsfield (2), Porthmadog v Buckley Town, Rhydymwyn v Llanidloes Town.

Morda hit six to throw the title race wide open



Defender Mike Lloyd heading home Morda's second from a Shaheen Miah corner



Gareth Lewis fires home Morda's fifth goal in their rout of Telford Juniors

MORDA United threw the title race wide open in the Meridian Regional League premier division after hammering previous leaders Telford Juniors 6-1 – lifting the Weston Road side up to fifth spot and breathing down the necks of the leaders.

Craig Rogers' side are now just four points adrift of new leaders Oakengates Athletic – whom they visit this Saturday – with their hopes of a league challenge still very much alive.

After an even first half, United were 2-1 up at the interval and took charge of the second period with two quickfire goals after which their high-flying visitors never recovered.

Scott Graham put Morda ahead in the eighth minute, beating off a challenge to find the net, but the Telford visitors were level on 25 minutes when Duane Upton beat the outside trap.

Play then remained even with both sides making considerable use of the long ball, but the Weston Road hosts regained

the lead 10 minutes before the break when a Shaheen Miah corner was flicked on and Mike Lloyd was on hand to finish neatly.

Two goals within three minutes of half time led to Morda taking control of the game, first Ian Heathcock sliding in to score from a Gareth Lewis cross before Miah strode through on goal to fire into an empty net.

The anticipated Telford fight back never came as Lewis was on hand to hit Morda's fifth from a Steve O'Reilly header.

The home dominance was maintained when Heathcock hit his second of the game, and his team's sixth, after the visiting defence was opened up by good interplay.

On Saturday, Morda will have another chance to confirm their title potential when they travel to face new league leaders Oakengates Athletic (2pm).

Just four points now separate the top six in what is shaping up to be a thrilling championship race.

First round victory sets Rovers up for cup run

WATERLOO Rovers, finalists in the last two seasons, are looking good for another run in the Spar Mid Wales League Cup after securing a 3-0 home win against Abermule in the first round.

Steve Hole, the first division player of the month for October, scored twice after the break either side of a strike from Barry Haralambous.

Abermule, who play one level below their hosts in the second division, worked hard with a solid defensive display and kept a tight rein in a goalless first half.

However, Hole made the breakthrough after the interval and once Haralambous had chested the ball down and volleyed home a second, there was no way back for the visitors.

The in-form Hole completed the win in fine style with a stunning 30-yarder.

WELSHPOOL TOWN also encountered few problems as they progressed 5-2 at Newbridge as they look to challenge for the trophy. Gareth Watkins scored two of the goals along with Martyn Ziemann, Shane Davis and Chris Roberts.

Title chasing BERRIEW marched through with a thumping 5-1 victory over FOUR CROSSES - their second five goal success over the Foxen Manor side this season.

Two goals to the good at half time, Rob Pritchard led the way with a hat-trick, with Rhydian Morris and Karl Seilearts also finding the net.

Dispatched

After their Welsh Cup heroics of the previous week, LLANFAIR UNITED kept their flag flying in the Spar Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 home passage against Aberystwyth University – their eighth win in a row.

They were two goals up at half time through Geraint Jones and Paul Griffiths, but had to withstand a fight-back in the second period from the students who pulled one back through Rian Devlin.

LLANSANTFFRAID Village bowed out at the first hurdle with a 2-0 exit at Knighton Town, who took the spoils with goals in each half from Mark Jones and Elliot Jones, while MONVIGOMERY's interest in the cup competition was also short-lived as they were edged out 3-2 by visiting Presteigne despite replies from Nick Rawlins and Neil Gorman.

Elsewhere, Aberaeron dispatched Tywyn Bryncreg 4-0 while Bow Street swept aside struggling Dolgellau 6-0 and Talgarth were 3-1 winners at home to Builth Wells with Scott Powell scoring twice, and Jordan Baker getting the other.

Weston Rhyn never gave up but they were soon conceding again when Gavin Brocklehurst's pinpoint pass put O'Keefe in and he made no mistake in rounding the keeper before rolling the ball into the empty net.

The scoring was completed late on when JJ Bailey powered his header from Maclean's flag kick into the top corner.

● Without a game last weekend, ST MARTINS find themselves six points adrift at the foot of the West Midlands League division one. They return to duty at Lledbury Town on Saturday, desperately looking to revive their fortunes.

Under-14s through after away victory

OSWESTRY Boys Club under-14s progressed to the third round of the Charity Cup with an excellent 2-1 passage at Admaston Juniors.

After a bright start, then went ahead when Lewis Birch smashed in a shot, hard and low, to beat the keeper at his near post.

The visitors, with Connor Williams bossing midfield and Harry Pritchard and Mitchell Brown keeping it tight at the back, continued to control the game.

However, they were pegged back with a reply just before half time but restored the lead with a Curtis Weetman penalty after James Jarvis had been fouled.

Admaston went close late on, but Owen Dean made a superb save in goal to send Oswestry through to the next round.

Rangers young guns fire out a league warning

THE young guns of Ellesmere Rangers kept up the pressure at the summit of the Midlands Floodlit Youth League Premier Division North with a resounding 4-0 win at Boldmere St Michaels.

Undeterred by the fact that they had gone over a month without a fixture due to weather and fixture disruption, the Rangers' youngsters flew into a first minute lead through Will Twyford who finished calmly under the goalkeeper from Mike O'Reilly's slide rule pass.

The visitors continued to dominate and Paddy Townsend rose highest from a Jack Gaddes centre to double the advantage in the 13th minute.

Boldmere had a couple of brief efforts from distance on the Rangers' goal but nothing of note for the visiting keeper to deal with and five minutes prior to the break Sean Griffiths slotted in the third to put Ellesmere in a commanding position.

The second half was largely a non-event as the visitors sat back keeping possession content to hit the home team on the counter.

Substitute Josh Brown caused problems in the final quarter of the match and had a hat-trick of chances that went begging before O'Reilly capped off an excellent night for the Swans in Birmingham when he skillfully worked his way into the box before smashing the ball home.

Manager Dan Stevens praised the performance, adding: "I was concerned the lads may have been rusty after such a prolonged lay-off but they put on a very lively and professional display and it keeps us in the hunt."

"We were extremely comfortable and played the conditions strongly and I was delighted we managed to keep a clean sheet."

Ellesmere youth have two second round ties in the forthcoming week, firstly heading to Pelsall Villa on Wednesday in the Staffordshire FA Midweek Floodlit Youth Cup before visiting Shifnal Harriers on Sunday in The Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup.

The team also had eight players representing The Shropshire FA which harshly lost 2-1 in extra-time to Northumberland FA.

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Fans flock to see top drivers
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OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01952 241473

www.oswestrychronicle.com

Men remain unbeaten as Bangor are hit for six

TWO goals from Dale Seymour helped Oswestry maintain their unbeaten form in the North Wales Mens Hockey League with a 6-0 verdict at Bangor City.

Ollie Booth, James Duxbury, Matt Smart and Charles Evans were also on the mark in their side's third win of the season - their other match being drawn.

Next up is a rearranged trip to Dysynni on Sunday, December 1.

OSWESTRY LADIES climbed clear of the basement zone in the Cheshire Womens League division two with an emphatic 5-0 win at Macclesfield and Bollington II.

It was the perfect response after the previous week's disappointing 3-2 home loss to lowly rivals Chester, their sixth defeat of the season.

Despite having most of the play, they returned home empty handed.

But Oswestry put it behind them this week, with Sarah Lowe scoring twice, along with Tracey Royle, Debra Jones and Freya Thompson, who netted her first goal for the club.

Buoyed by the timely win, the ladies will be looking for more points this Saturday they take on Alderley Edge III at Oswestry School (4pm).

Defeat in last match of season

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's third mixed team suffered defeat in their last outing of the season at home to Market Drayton III.

The first pair of Captain Carol Slater and Keith Grice won their first round rubber in straight sets 6-1, 6-4, but the second pair of Dave Armstrong and Linda Davies lost 3-6, 1-6.

Carol and Keith started well, brushing aside the opposing second pair for the loss of only one game 6-1 but they struggled to maintain their momentum and soon fell 2-4 behind before drawing level at four games all.

They then dropped serve and their opponents served out the set taking the rubber to a third set tie break.

This started disastrously when they fell 0-3 behind and then they were never in a position to get back on level terms and they went down 6-10 (0-1).

Linda and Dave never really got going and they lost heavily 0-6, 1-6.

Welshpool have three points deducted

WELSHPOOL Town insist their three point deduction for fielding an ineligible player in the Spar Mid Wales League division one has only served to increase their resolve.

The punishment was confirmed at a meeting of the league's committee with the Lilywhites having been reported for fielding a player before his 16th birthday.

Although the club have a right of appeal to the FA of Wales, it is believed that they are unlikely to do so.

The committee were satisfied with Pool's explanation of events but had no option other than to carry out league rules which mean a points deduction as well as a fine.

"It's disappointing, but it has increased our resolve and made us more determined to prove people wrong," said manager Rus-

sell Cadwallader whose side remain seventh despite losing three points, although they are seven points adrift of Aberaeron in sixth.

Welshpool now host Four Crosses on Saturday as they bid to push into the top half of the table - and then have an intriguing league clash with Berriew at Maesydre the following Friday, with the visitors now having former Lilywhites manager Dave Jones as their assistant.

After going five games without a win, FOUR CROSSES boss Nick Popyk admits his side will going all out to shrug off their poor run of form this week. The Foxen Manor side suffered more woe after slipping to a 5-1 loss at BERRIEW in the first manager of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup last

Friday, with manager Nick Popyk pointing to the controversial sending off of Gaz Jones for a foul on Karl Seliearts as a key moment with his side trailing 2-1.

"We didn't start well and to be fair deserved to be losing at half time, but we were right back in it after getting a goal back to make it 2-1 until the crazy decision to send Gaz off on the hour mark," he said.

"It was a total game changer and in my opinion never a straight red."

"Anyhow, we need to move on from this and pick the lads up and look to stop this bad run of luck and results."

Crosses were looking to halt the slump last night when they started the defence of the Montgomeryshire Cup against Llansantffraid Village, the team they beat

in the final last season, before visiting Welshpool in the Spar Mid Wales League on Saturday.

Goals from Rob Pritchard and Seliearts gave Berriew a deserved interval lead in last week's clash, but Four Crosses were back in the hunt when Chris Aitken pulled one back. Just as they were getting on top, Jones' red card changed the complexion of the game and Rhidian Morris made it 3-1 soon after to kill the game.

Rob Pritchard then scored two more top complete his hat trick - the final goal he lobbed the keeper from 40 yards.

Berriew were due to host Kerry at home last night (wed) in the Montgomeryshire Cup before welcoming Ruthin in the fourth round of FAW Trophy on Saturday.

Rovers face tough test in clash with title chasers

WATERLOO Rovers put their early challenge to the test when they host Spar Mid Wales League division one title chasers Carno on Saturday.

Dale Roberts' side have been in excellent form of late, with their latest success seeing them reach the second round of the league cup with a 3-0 home passage against Abermule last weekend.

Steve Hole - player of the month for October - continued his rich vein of form with a brace and Barry Haralambous getting the other after a goalless first half.

They now turn their thoughts back to the league, and, lying third, they will be keen to keep up the pressure on the two sides above them.

Confident

Rovers can go into the game in confident mood after last week's cup win, with boss Roberts saying: "Having won the league cup two years ago and losing in the final last season, it is a competition that is close to our hearts and we're going to give it a good go again this year."

"We're now back on the league on Saturday, it's going to be a toughie for us, but we're at full strength and the lads are feeling confident."

Elsewhere, in-form Llanfair United bid to stay hard on the heels of the leading pack when they visit Llansantffraid Village and lowly Dyffryn Banw chase much needed points at home to Builth Wells.

Eagles face a tricky trip

IT'S been a mixed fortnight for Oswestry rugby players who suffered a 12-try mauling at Bowdon in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

After sweeping aside lowly Wallasey 46-0 the previous week, the Eagles found themselves on the receiving end with a 74-15 beating at promotion hopefuls Bowdon.

This Saturday, they face another tricky trip to face Ormskirk, who lie one place above in fourth position, two places above their hosts

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THE New Saints chase a sixth straight Welsh Premier win as they look to tighten their grip on the championship chase in Sunday's trip to surprise strugglers Port Talbot Town (2pm).

After last Friday's last-gasp 2-1 win at lowly Afan

by John Bridgwater



Ryan Fraughan - on mend

Lido that took them three points clear at the top, the defending champions hit the road to another side that has underachieved this term.

With early rivals Airbus UK seeing their challenge falter with back-to-back defeats in the past week,

TNS head coach Carl Darlington senses a chance for the league leaders to stamp their authority on the race for honours.

But he knows the full-timers will need to show the same kind of resolve against the Steelmen who, despite bolstering their squad during the summer, find themselves battling to escape basement danger after a torrid start.

"We showed a great attitude and desire to come away with the win at Afan Lido," said Darlington.

"These games away from home are notoriously difficult, and at one stage I didn't think it would be our night, but we showed a never-say-die attitude and the players should take a lot of credit. These are the games where leagues are won and lost."

"Port Talbot will be just the same, it's another banana skin. We beat them 5-0 at home in the first game of the season which would have left a sour taste in the

mouth, and they will want to put it right."

"Despite their start to the season, they are a very good team, and on paper have some very good players. It hasn't happened for them yet, but they are capable of pulling off some good results, but we hopefully it won't happen on Sunday."

Ryan Fraughan (groin) and Connell Rawlinson (foot) are both back in training after missing the last week, while Sam Finley returns after being ruled out of the Lido trip due to sickness.

Talbot's plans have been disrupted by suspension with Adie Harris and former Swansea City striker Guillem Bouza both sent off in last week's controversial 2-1 defeat against Prestatyn.

Morda rising to title challenge

MORDA United are showing they have what it takes to mount a serious title challenge this season in the Meridian League premier division.

After a mixed start, the Weston Road men underlined their credentials by hitting previous leaders Telford Juniors for six to stay hard on the heels of the leaders.

Just four points now separate the top six in what is shaping up to be a thrilling championship race, and boss Craig Rogers backs his players to be in contention.

After last week's 6-1 demolition of Telford Juniors, they now face a tough assignment in Saturday's trip to new leaders Oaken-gates.

And Rogers knows his side cannot afford to rest on their laurels as they face many challenges ahead.

"I've always felt that if we find some consistency, then we will challenge for the title," he said.

"Although we had three players unavailable last week, we showed to a man what a good squad we have to pull off a result like that."

"But we need to forget that now and focus on the next game. Oaken-gates are now top of the league and are a very good team. It will be a tough fixture but we won there last season so



Morda's Gareth Lewis beats off a Telford Juniors defender at Weston Road

we can go with confidence after last Saturday's result." While Morda were scoring six, a depleted WESTON RHYN slumped 6-0 at home to Whitchurch Alport to slip down into eighth spot. Matt Owen's

men will be out to get back on track on Saturday when they head to Madeley Sports, a side they defeated 4-1 earlier in the season. Morda United have been drawn away to Clee Hill United in the

third round of the Shropshire FA Cup. Weston Rhyn are at home to Hopsgate United while FC Oswestry Town welcome Impact United. Ties to be played on Saturday, February 8, 2014 (1.30pm).

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